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World Bank tackles trade and aid deadlock

High-level commission to help to break "the impasse" in international economic negotiations was proposed yesterday by Mr. McNamara, President of the World Bank.

Herr Brandt ready to head commission

Frank Vogel, Economics Correspondent, reports, Jan 14. Robert McNamara, President of the World Bank, called for the establishment of a high-level commission, headed by Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor, to "generate the international community to out of the current impasse that has developed in international economic negotiations."

Brandt issued a statement today saying he was ready to head such a commission. At the United Nations, the Secretary-General, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in Nairobi, and from the continuing North-South dialogue in Paris.

Mr. McNamara has done a great deal of work in preparing the ground for the success of the initiative he announced today. He recognizes that the commission must have a secretary and some funding, and he noted that he has already received indications of financial support from numerous foreign leaders.

This new scheme results largely from Mr. McNamara's deep frustration concerning the unwillingness of wealthy nations to raise their development aid contributions. Using the opportunity of a change of administration in Washington, the World Bank President singled out the United States for extraordinary bitter criticism.

He said the United States was one of the poorest performers among rich developed nations in granting development aid. He noted that "even the dog-and-cat in America today have a better standard of nutrition than tens of millions of children in developing nations."

Home loans rate is maintained at 12 1/4 pc

By Margaret Stone. After a month of indecision the Building Societies Association has committed itself to retention of the mortgage rate of 12 1/4 per cent and the investment interest rate of 7.5 per cent.

The decision was taken at yesterday's meeting of the council of the association. Building society leaders, many of whom supported the idea of a 13 per cent mortgage rate last month, were influenced by a gentle easing of interest rates generally and by results that are better than expected for December.

After the very low level of net receipts of £23m in November, it seemed that the societies might experience a net outflow of funds last month. But after Christmas shopping and buying in advance of December's economic measures, the situation improved towards the end of the month.

Net receipts for December totalled £27m and during the month the societies lent £479m to home buyers. The amount promised to prospective purchasers, at £371m, was the lowest commitment figure for the year, but as Mr. Norman Griggs, secretary-general of the association, pointed out, "This hardly represents a famine."

January is traditionally a very good month for building society investment. Most societies pay out interest this month and have many borrowers who reinvest it almost immediately. Early mortgage payments indicate that net receipts could rise to about £100m.

Further improvement will be looked for later in the year but it seems unlikely that the societies will be able to maintain their lending at the rate of £6,000m, the total they managed to achieve last year. They are expected to aim at up to £5,000m.

Welcoming the decision to peg the mortgage rate at the current level, Mr. Anthony Cavanagh, president of the Housebuilders' Federation, expressed concern yesterday that the total lending by societies this year will be considerably lower than last year.

John Stonehouse, the former MP, who is serving a seven-year jail sentence for fraud, theft and deception, will seek leave in the Court of Appeal on January 24 to appeal against his conviction and sentence.

The hearing, expected to last two days, will be before Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, and two other judges. Mr. Stonehouse will not appear.

Mr. Stonehouse, now serving his sentence at Brixton Prison, Suffolk, will be represented by Mr. Louis Blom-Cooper, QC.

His secretary, Mrs. Sheila Buckley, aged 30, was given a two-year suspended jail sentence after her conviction on the charges.

Other member states any internal action of any kind in excess of that imposed directly or indirectly on similar domestic products.

The "similar domestic product" cited is beer. It is possible that Britain might agree whether beer and wine are similar.

Under the procedure in the treaty, the commission will be writing to the British Government pointing out that Britain is breaking the rules. The Treasury will consider the matter and after the British Government has replied to the Commission, the latter will review the situation.

Italian archaeologists unveil high culture of unknown third millennium BC state

Clay tablets will revolutionize earliest history of mankind

From Patricia Clough, Rome, Jan 14. The immense importance of some 16,500 clay tablets dug up by Italian archaeologists in Syria is beginning to emerge after a preliminary study of the texts.

The tablets are the state archives of Ebla, a state about which nothing was known previously except the name, and which flourished during the third millennium BC. The ancient city, at a spot now called Tell Mardikh, 30 miles from Aleppo, is being excavated by a team from Rome University. The tablets were unearthed in 1975 and 1976.

Professor Giovanni Pettinato, the team's language expert, has been conducting a rapid survey of the texts to ascertain the contents but as yet only a small proportion have been studied thoroughly.

Professor Paolo Matthiae, the head of the archive would revolutionize knowledge of the Middle East during that period. Hitherto it was assumed that the main centres of power and culture in the Middle East during the third millennium were Mesopotamia and Egypt and that Syria was a peripheral area of little importance. It was also generally supposed that the overall picture would change little with further excavations.

The find, Professor Matthiae says, is "like a kind of earthquake which has put very many things in doubt."

In the first place it has shown the existence of a state in about 2400 BC which was a political, economic and military power that rivalled Mesopotamia. Above all it was a great commercial empire which did business over a large area of the Middle East from Anatolia to Palestine and from western Iran to the sea.

Like the other two empires it had a written language—a cuneiform script—and a highly developed culture.

The second important aspect of the discovery is the previously unknown language in which many of the tablets were written. Now called Eblaite, it is one of the Semitic family of languages, similar to Phoenician and Hebrew. It is the oldest written Semitic language, as texts in the other languages appear only 1,300 years later.

The language is being deciphered without too great difficulty by comparing it to other Semitic languages. The study is being greatly helped by the presence of bilingual text and actual dictionaries from Eblaite into Sumerian, the language of southern Mesopotamia, and vice versa. These dictionaries in turn will help scholars to translate hitherto incomprehensible elements in Sumerian.

Professor Matthiae dismisses as "silly" recurrent press reports that the archives in some way support parts of the Old Testament.

It is true, he says, that Professor Pettinato has deciphered the names of two cities which appear similar to those of Sodom and Gomorrah. This may mean that the Jewish story about their wickedness and destruction may refer to two cities which actually existed.

But it is unscientific, he says, to suggest that, just because the language was similar to Hebrew, the people of Ebla may have been the ancestors of the Jews. The Jews appeared in the Middle East a thousand years later and much could be learned from the archives.

Continued on page 3, col 6

Queen pays tribute to Lord Avon as man of courage and integrity

By Philip Howard. Lord Avon, the former Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden and the last of the old school of British diplomats, died in his sleep yesterday at the age of 79.

He was flown back from Florida by the RAF earlier this year, on the twentieth anniversary of the day that he resigned as Prime Minister at the height of the Suez crisis, when his health began to deteriorate because of progressive liver failure. He wanted to die in England, and came home to his country house at Alvediston, near Salisbury.

Anthony Eden was the youngest Foreign Secretary of this century, and served in the office for 14 years. He made his glittering reputation before the war as the champion of the League of Nations, the staunch opponent of Fascism, and the man who resigned from the National Government in 1938 in protest against the policy of appeasement.

He was later apparent to Sir Winston Churchill for too long, and he died in 1955, to January, 1957, ended in the controversy and watershed of Suez.

The Queen sent a message of sympathy from Sandringham to Lady Avon, who was with him when he died. It included the passage: "As a gallant soldier in the First World War and as a statesman in the Second and in many years of peace, he gave outstanding service to his country. He will be remembered in the House of Commons."

His death, it included the passage: "As a gallant soldier in the First World War and as a statesman in the Second and in many years of peace, he gave outstanding service to his country. He will be remembered in the House of Commons."

The Government issued a statement from Downing Street expressing deep regret at Lord Avon's death. It ended: "His death, it included the passage: "As a gallant soldier in the First World War and as a statesman in the Second and in many years of peace, he gave outstanding service to his country. He will be remembered in the House of Commons."

Minister was brought to an end before it had time to develop fully by ill health, leading to his resignation in 1957, after 34 years in the House of Commons. This coincidence with controversy over the Suez operation, but we shall remember that his premiership was also marked by his endeavour to relax the Cold War at the summit conference at Geneva—the scene of much of his interest and controversy in the course of strenuous service to his country. We mourn the passing of a distinguished parliamentarian and a statesman of exceptional experience and determination."

The Prime Minister and others will pay personal tributes to Lord Avon in the House of Commons on Monday.

On past precedents, on the death of a former Prime Minister or eminent politician such as Hugh Gaiskill, the House will then adjourn as a gesture of respect.

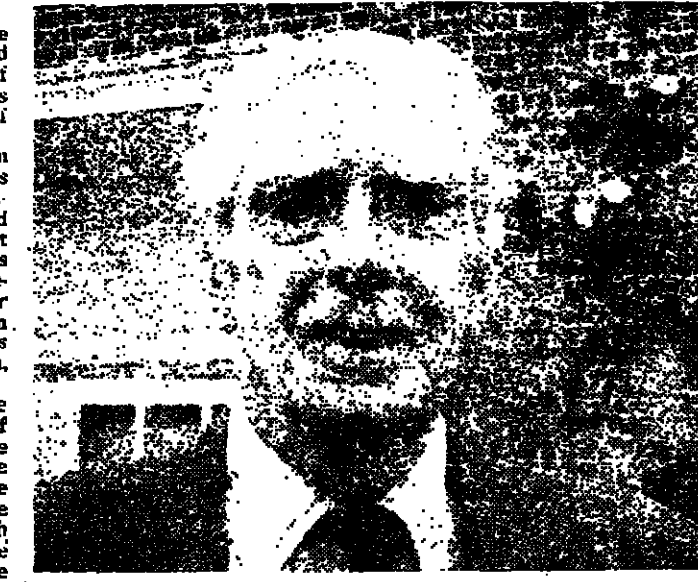
Mrs. Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, said: "Political and personal courage were his outstanding attributes. He was one of his country's greatest Foreign Secretaries, working continually for an enduring peace on the basis of mutual respect. He will be remembered throughout the country as a gallant soldier, an outstanding diplomat, and a great patriot."

Lord Butler of Safraon Walden, one of his oldest parliamentary and Cabinet colleagues, said: "He was the most gallant public man who ever served, starting with his war record and continuing to his determination in standing up for the Suez Canal as an international waterway and resisting its takeover by Nasser."

Lord Selwyn-Lloyd, Foreign Secretary, said: "His outstanding qualities were his courage and perception. He was a brilliant negotiator, but he also knew a great deal about the feelings of ordinary people on everyday matters, and he had the courage to take difficult decisions."

Lord Home of the Hirsel, Commonwealth Relations Secretary in the Eden Government, and another former Prime Minister, paid tribute to Lord Avon as a rare politician who believed in principles.

Leading article, page 15
Obituary, page 17



Lord Avon outside his home at Alvediston, Wiltshire, last June.

Chief constables fear breakdown in law and order over cash cuts

By Clive Borrell. Britain's chief police officers have warned Mr. Rees, the Home Secretary, that he faces a breakdown in law and order this year unless the police receive pay rises.

Cutbacks in public spending decided by the Government have been so stringent, chief constables representing forces in England, Wales and Northern Ireland say, that "it will be very difficult, not impossible" for the police fully to discharge their duties.

The views of the chief constables arrived on Mr. Rees's desk yesterday after a long and at times alarming meeting at Scotland Yard.

One chief constable said last night: "Without the money we need to run the police, the Government's decision to cut back on local government spending will be tantamount to a criminal's charter. People will be able literally to help themselves and our manpower will be so weak on the ground that we shall not be able to stop them."

Recruiting and the training of cadets has come almost to a standstill in some areas where police forces are hundreds, and in a few cases thousands, below their establishments. Some cadet centres have had to be closed in an attempt to prune budgets.

Mr. Peter Marshalls, Chief Constable of Surrey, said: "Civilian staff have had to be replaced by taking policemen from operational duties to do office work. This reduction in expenditure will seriously affect the maintenance of law and order."

In Hampshire Sir Douglas Ormrod, a chief constable, said last night: "We are 400 men short, but to save money we have had to close the cadet training centre."

In Cambridgeshire the police budget has been trimmed by £700,000, and 49 out of 53 traffic wardens may lose their jobs. Two features of future expenditure the police chiefs feel that Government has overlooked are pensions, which increase annually, as does the number of recipients, and the Silver Jubilee celebrations.

to refuse to cooperate with any development of the local government service, arising from central government legislation or instructions, unless the money to do it is forthcoming.

The likely effect of the overtime ban is not clear, but according to Mr. Geoffrey Drury, Nalco general secretary, it will bring some services to a halt. He said: "There will be no danger to life and limb."

The ban was initially rejected on a hand vote by 510 to 498, but carried on a card vote by a decisive 249,000 to 198,000.

The mood of the conference came as a surprise to the union's executive, who opposed all amendments to their own resolution, which called for alternative economic policies in line with the TUC approach.

The conference rejected by a substantial majority a call for a national strike from March 1, but again the size of the vote in favour was an indication of the extent of militant feeling.

Another big decision, also in defiance of the executive, was

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er Finch ically ill

Angela, Jan 14.—Peter the Australian-born was said to be in a very poor condition in hospital after apparently suffering an attack at a Beverly hotel.

Finch, aged 50, is said to be under consideration for an nomination for his role in the film "The Elephant Man", one of his most films—Reuters and AP.

ie Times' cologize to readers who to receive The Times day. The qualifying puzzle is 177 Country Back Times

ations press on th plans for Africa boycott

trade unions pressed on yesterday plans for a trade and communications boycott on South Africa next week

of Rights move

EEC ready to act against Britain over increase in taxes levied on wine

From Alan Wood, Luxembourg, Jan 14. Mr. Richard Burke, of Ireland, the European Commissioner for fiscal policy and protection of consumer interests, indicated in a reply to a question at the European Parliament late last night that the Commission was taking action against Britain because of increased tax being levied on wine. The action is being taken under article 169 of the Treaty of Rome.

It is maintained that the British taxes levied on wine contravene article 95 which lays down that "no member state may impose, directly or indirectly, on the products of

other member states any internal action of any kind in excess of that imposed directly or indirectly on similar domestic products."

The "similar domestic product" cited is beer. It is possible that Britain might agree whether beer and wine are similar.

Under the procedure in the treaty, the commission will be writing to the British Government pointing out that Britain is breaking the rules. The Treasury will consider the matter and after the British Government has replied to the Commission, the latter will review the situation.

If the Commission is still dissatisfied, there can be a second exchange of letters and after that the Commission, if it decides, may inform Britain that it proposes to take it to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg for a ruling.

In those circumstances, the case can drag on. The view here is that there is no desire to take any conciliatory action over this issue but rules are rules. The main problem facing wine growers is the declining demand in France and Italy.

There may be some wry smiles in Britain by those who consider there is a touch of Irish in the Commission even thinking that a Labour Government was protecting the brewers when the present level of tax on wine was fixed.

European MPs seek quick action on terrorism

From Our Parliamentary Staff, Luxembourg, Jan 14. The European Parliament, in a rare mood of unanimity, carried a resolution today calling on all states and national parliaments of the Community to ratify immediately the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism.

The convention, drawn up last autumn by the Council of Europe, will be signed on January 24. Sir Peter Kirk, leader of the Conservative group at the European Parliament, moving the resolution on behalf of all six political groups, said he had urged many governments had already indicated their intention to sign on that day and ensure ratification as early as possible.

Sir Peter explained that under the convention it would not be open to terrorists to plead that they could not be extradited from one member state to another because their action was political.

The ratification of today's proceedings, in what has been generally regarded as British week, was occupied by a series of resolutions and reports on environmental and consumer protection matters.

Britain's second new commissioner, Mr. Christopher Tugendhat, disclosed during a discussion on packing and labelling, that in making the move to Brussels he had bought his wife a pocket calculator to help her adjust to the new quantities and measurements.

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HOME NEWS

High Court move fails to stop unions' plans for S Africa boycott

By Tim Jones

Labour Staff

Undeterred by strong criticism from industry and an attempt in the High Court to impede their actions, British trade unions yesterday continued with their plans to impose a trade and communications boycott on South Africa next week.

In the High Court a judge refused an application by the National Association for Freedom of Information, headed by Lord De Laish, VC, which attempted to stop the Union of Post Office Workers from imposing mail, telegram and telephone calls to South Africa from midnight tomorrow.

The CBI described the proposed action as "totally irresponsible" and said it would harm the interests of workers in both countries.

"It must damage our trade with one of our best customers which buys over £500m of goods a year from us and provides jobs for over 70,000 Britons," the CBI said. "Disruption of this trade can only be called totally irresponsible at a time when we ought to be doing our utmost to improve our balance of payments and reduce unemployment, as indeed the TUC and CBI jointly urged in their export year message a fortnight ago."

Yesterday Mr David Bassett, general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, said he had instructed branches to cooperate with any local activities designed to support the international boycott.

The union has circulated a

list of almost 50 companies with South African subsidiaries so that their members can ask employers what they are doing about black workers and recognition of their unions.

The national executive of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs said they were full backing to the campaign.

Other unions, including the Transport and General Workers' Union and the National Union of Seamen, have given full support to international action.

Mr Harold Sorel, chairman of the Africa committee of the Monday Club, said: "The illegal tampering with her Majesty's mail and telecommunications means that mail can only now be destined for the pen-pals of Messrs Jackson and Jones and other trade union leaders whose dedication to democracy is apparent from their hospitality to communist envoys."

According to the Telephone Users' Association, the action was a denial of a fundamental right of telephone users to call whom they choose.

Heathrow protest: A telegram deplored the TUC attitude towards South Africa was sent to Mr Len Murray, general secretary, by a group of far-right unionists at Heathrow airport.

"We, your paymasters, instruct you to devote your time and our money to rooting out the cancer of communism within the TUC and this Government," the telegram said.

Mr Murray said the Government was a bigger threat to our democracy than South Africa.

Hope for black unions, page 4

Court ruling may mean a change in drug law

By Stewart Tisdler

Home Affairs Reporter

The Government's advisers on drug abuse are expected to study the implications of a judgment in the Court of Appeal this week which has created a loophole in the law controlling cannabis possession.

On Thursday the court ruled that possession of the leaves of the plant, although they contain active chemical agents, did not constitute the offence of possession of a controlled substance under the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971. The court ruled that the leaves of the plant, although they contain active chemical agents, did not constitute the offence of possession of a controlled substance under the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971.

A decision on whether to appeal the judgment is expected to be made by the Director of Public Prosecutions. If an appeal is defeated the Home Office may consider amending the Act.

The Act allows for additional to the schedule of controlled drugs by means of an Order in Council, but that must go through Parliament.

With regard to convictions for possession of cannabis, the loophole disclosed by the judgment is not large, since most convictions are for possession of cannabis resin, which remains covered by the Act.

Some experts feel the ruling leaves open the question of cannabis resin and other substances in the leaves which are controlled elsewhere in the Act and could still mean a prosecution connected with possession of the leaves.

The Home Office may decide it does not need to amend the Act because of that, or else that it needs a clear ruling before any further prosecutions are brought based on possession of the leaves alone.

Yesterday Release, the organization that provides legal aid and advice for drug offenders, said the court had not cleared up the position regarding derivatives from the leaves. Offenders might face penalties similar to those for heroin because of the classification of some derivatives under the Act.

The organization called on Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, to instruct the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs to reconsider the law relating to cannabis. Last year a working party produced reports on cannabis use in Britain.

Release said: "The confusion caused by Thursday's ruling on cannabis leaves will necessitate a review of the present law, and Release is pressing for a full and public discussion of the issue before any amending legislation is enacted. Release believes it is the duty of Parliament to make immediate steps towards the complete legislation of this harmless herb."

Law Report, page 16

Cardinal Conway

Cardinal Conway, aged 54, head of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland, was recovering in a Dublin hospital yesterday after a gall bladder operation.

He was sent to prison for four years on each count, the terms to run concurrently. The court was told that a deportation notice was served on Mr Emami last Tuesday. The judge will consider next week whether he will be sent back to Iran.

The judge said the case had meant "hours of humiliating cross-examination" of the blackmail victim. He added: "At one stage you seemed to be complaining that you were being unfairly treated because you were a foreigner. The police dealt with you with consideration and fairness and you have had a fair trial. It is a pity that you could not get away with this."

Referring to the offence against Miss Piramoun, the

Tory leaders back devolution 'Bill of Rights'

By David Leigh

Political Staff

Conservative efforts to write a Bill of Rights into the Government's devolution Bill are being championed by the party's Front Bench. They see it as a step in the campaign to get a Bill of Rights for the United Kingdom as a whole.

At the same time the Conservative Welsh spokesman, Mr Nicholas Edwards, has launched an attack on enthusiasts campaigning for a Welsh assembly, which the Tories are trying to throw out of the Bill. They were showing "hysteria," he said last night.

Mr Leon Brittan (Cleveland, North Yorkshire), said at Stokeley, North Yorkshire: "One of the problems presented by at least some of the methods for enacting a Bill of Rights for the United Kingdom is that it might be thought to conflict with the doctrine of the sovereignty of Parliament, which enables Parliament to pass legislation of any kind, prevents one Parliament binding its successors."

"These considerations do not apply to the Scottish and Welsh assemblies, because it is not suggested they should be sovereign Parliaments."

If Conservative amendments were passed, he said, an individual who claimed that his rights under the European Convention had been infringed by the Scots or Welsh could go to law.

"I believe that if these amendments are passed, and the provisions relating to the Bill of Rights are seen to work in Scotland and Wales, the case for a United Kingdom Bill of Rights would be immeasurably strengthened."

The official Conservative Opposition are trying hard to demonstrate their reasonable and constructive attitude to devolution in principle. At the same time their unregenerate backbenchers continue to plan wrecking campaigns. Several hundred more amendments are going to be tabled in addition to the 300 or so already published.

The most destructive official Tory effort is going into trying to remove Wales from the Bill. The clauses should come up in committee next week, when both Government and Opposition expect a narrow Government victory by between 15 and 25 votes.

But Mr Edwards took a fierce line when he spoke at Newport last night against the Welsh Assembly Action Committee, which has been sponsoring full-page advertisements in local papers.

Bone marrow transfusion: Peter Dewhurst, aged nine, with his mother and father at Hammersmith Hospital, London, yesterday, where he will act as donor today for his brother, Leslie, aged 11, in a bone marrow

transfusion. The family, from New Zealand, flew to London for the operation. The boy is suffering from aplastic anaemia and doctors say the transfusion has an even chance of success.

Bakers appeal to Acas in bread delivery dispute

By Hugh Clayton

Apprehensive bakers broke their silence in the bread dispute yesterday and appealed to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas). They were spurred on by the prospect of much more widespread action by deliverymen against cheap bread next week.

Scottish van drivers in the Transport and General Workers' Union are to fix a minimum price of 15p for a large wrapped loaf on Tuesday. Drivers in the United Road Transport Union are to meet on Monday about the possibility of a 15p minimum price for England.

Grocers who refuse to fix minimum prices at levels as high as those fixed by the deliverymen face a boycott of supplies. The Federation of Bakers said after referring the dispute

to Acas yesterday that it wanted a quick decision. "We do not accept that trade unions have the right or the justification to attempt to dictate commercial policy in the way some of their members have been doing recently," it said.

The bakers' union said it "advised federation members how best to deal with the situation confronting them and to restore normal order in bread deliveries."

Mr René Short, Labour MP for Wolverhampton, North-east, called on the Government to persuade families to bake their own bread. "The row is about cotton-wool bread wrapped up in wax," he said. "I know very well that women can produce better bread than that, and people are losing nothing if they eat that get this tasteless product."

Bank of England man and eight others accused

Nine men, including a Bank of England official, were remanded at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday until April 15 on a number of charges, including fraud.

John Martin Wales, aged 41, a Bank of England official, of Ruislip, Middlesex, was charged with fraud, conspiracy, and obtaining money by false pretences. He was charged with fraud, conspiracy, and obtaining money by false pretences. He was charged with fraud, conspiracy, and obtaining money by false pretences.

Mr Rees has 'flu

Mr Rees, Home Secretary, is suffering from influenza and has had to cancel weekend engagements in Wales.

3 hurt and houses damaged in gas blast

From Ronald Kershaw

Leeds

A gas explosion belt have been caused by a small road digger from service pipe, damaged houses and injured two and a workman at Leeds today.

It happened at the Lee Dent Street, near the centre of Mrs Margaret Mond, who suffered a burst and a fractured leg. Her neighbour, Mrs Adams, aged 61, suffered to her head, and Mr Hemmingsway, a workman from Cross Street, Wakefield, suffered burns and chest injuries. In the Calder Valley, West Yorkshire 125 s neers were working stretch to restore some 6,000 customers, failed as a result of caused, it is thought, weather.

Work, which has been peried by snow and in continue over the w Emergency feeding, means have been set up local authority. Towns were Hedden Bridge, stall and Upper Mythe Bunsalow blast: A bus, Tonbridge, Kent, was damaged by a suspect explosion yesterday (th Association reports). It in Hieham Lane, blew roof and threw furniture the air. No one was in.

In Glasgow a work treated for shock after exploded yesterday in a centre after rolling off a

Booby-trap bomb kills RUC reservist

From Christopher Walker

Belfast

An off-duty police reservist was murdered in co London-derry and two bombs exploded inside the 10th light security barrier which guards the commercial heart of Belfast as the Provisional IRA's intensified campaign of violence continued yesterday.

The high level of violence in the city, including the killing of three soldiers, reflected firmly held belief among Provisional IRA activists that the Government is closer to ordering a military withdrawal than at any time since 1969.

Many are convinced that only a so-called "last push" is needed despite repeated public denials by Mr Mason, Secretary of State, that any withdrawal of the Army is being considered.

Yesterday's victim was Mr James Greer, aged 27. He was killed as he drove his car to work by a booby-trap device attached to the steering wheel. The explosion occurred only a few yards from the house where he lived with his wife and elderly parents.

The Belfast bombs destroyed a men's wear shop and damaged a hairdressing shop. Detectives suspect that teenage girls from republican areas concealed the components of the bombs in their clothes and smuggled them past the security checks.

The first peace rally aimed specifically at young people is to be staged in Belfast tomorrow by Youth for Peace, a newly formed wing of the Northern Ireland peace movement.

Prisoner give leave to appeal

Ronald St Germain, serving a seven-year sentence, was given leave to appeal yesterday against a finding by a prison visitors that he is a prison visitor.

Mr St Germain claim written statement in Queen's Bench Division that the board's decision contrary to prison rules rules of natural justice.

Prisoner's protest

After sitting for three on a roof in Toxteth, Liverpool, in protest against a finding by a prison visitors that he is a prison visitor, Mr St Germain returned to prison yesterday.

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Bakers appeal to Acas in bread delivery dispute

By Hugh Clayton

Political Staff

Apprehensive bakers broke their silence in the bread dispute yesterday and appealed to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas). They were spurred on by the prospect of much more widespread action by deliverymen against cheap bread next week.

Scottish van drivers in the Transport and General Workers' Union are to fix a minimum price of 15p for a large wrapped loaf on Tuesday. Drivers in the United Road Transport Union are to meet on Monday about the possibility of a 15p minimum price for England.

Grocers who refuse to fix minimum prices at levels as high as those fixed by the deliverymen face a boycott of supplies. The Federation of Bakers said after referring the dispute

to Acas yesterday that it wanted a quick decision. "We do not accept that trade unions have the right or the justification to attempt to dictate commercial policy in the way some of their members have been doing recently," it said.

The bakers' union said it "advised federation members how best to deal with the situation confronting them and to restore normal order in bread deliveries."

Mr René Short, Labour MP for Wolverhampton, North-east, called on the Government to persuade families to bake their own bread. "The row is about cotton-wool bread wrapped up in wax," he said. "I know very well that women can produce better bread than that, and people are losing nothing if they eat that get this tasteless product."

Bank of England man and eight others accused

Nine men, including a Bank of England official, were remanded at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday until April 15 on a number of charges, including fraud.

John Martin Wales, aged 41, a Bank of England official, of Ruislip, Middlesex, was charged with fraud, conspiracy, and obtaining money by false pretences. He was charged with fraud, conspiracy, and obtaining money by false pretences.

Mr Rees has 'flu

Mr Rees, Home Secretary, is suffering from influenza and has had to cancel weekend engagements in Wales.

Prisoner give leave to appeal

Ronald St Germain, serving a seven-year sentence, was given leave to appeal yesterday against a finding by a prison visitors that he is a prison visitor.

Mr St Germain claim written statement in Queen's Bench Division that the board's decision contrary to prison rules rules of natural justice.

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Booby-trap bomb kills RUC reservist

From Christopher Walker

Belfast

An off-duty police reservist was murdered in co London-derry and two bombs exploded inside the 10th light security barrier which guards the commercial heart of Belfast as the Provisional IRA's intensified campaign of violence continued yesterday.

The high level of violence in the city, including the killing of three soldiers, reflected firmly held belief among Provisional IRA activists that the Government is closer to ordering a military withdrawal than at any time since 1969.

Many are convinced that only a so-called "last push" is needed despite repeated public denials by Mr Mason, Secretary of State, that any withdrawal of the Army is being considered.

Yesterday's victim was Mr James Greer, aged 27. He was killed as he drove his car to work by a booby-trap device attached to the steering wheel. The explosion occurred only a few yards from the house where he lived with his wife and elderly parents.

The Belfast bombs destroyed a men's wear shop and damaged a hairdressing shop. Detectives suspect that teenage girls from republican areas concealed the components of the bombs in their clothes and smuggled them past the security checks.

The first peace rally aimed specifically at young people is to be staged in Belfast tomorrow by Youth for Peace, a newly formed wing of the Northern Ireland peace movement.

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HOME NEWS

3 hurt in houses damaged by gas blast in Scotland

From Ronald Ross, Glasgow
A gas explosion in Glasgow yesterday has caused damage to three houses and injured three people. The explosion occurred in a tenement block in the city centre, near the Glasgow City Hall. The blast was caused by a gas leak from a boiler in one of the flats. The fire service was called to the scene and managed to contain the explosion. Three people were injured, two of whom are in hospital. The damage to the houses is estimated to be around £10,000. The fire service is now investigating the cause of the explosion.

Minister in dispute over jobs for Scotland

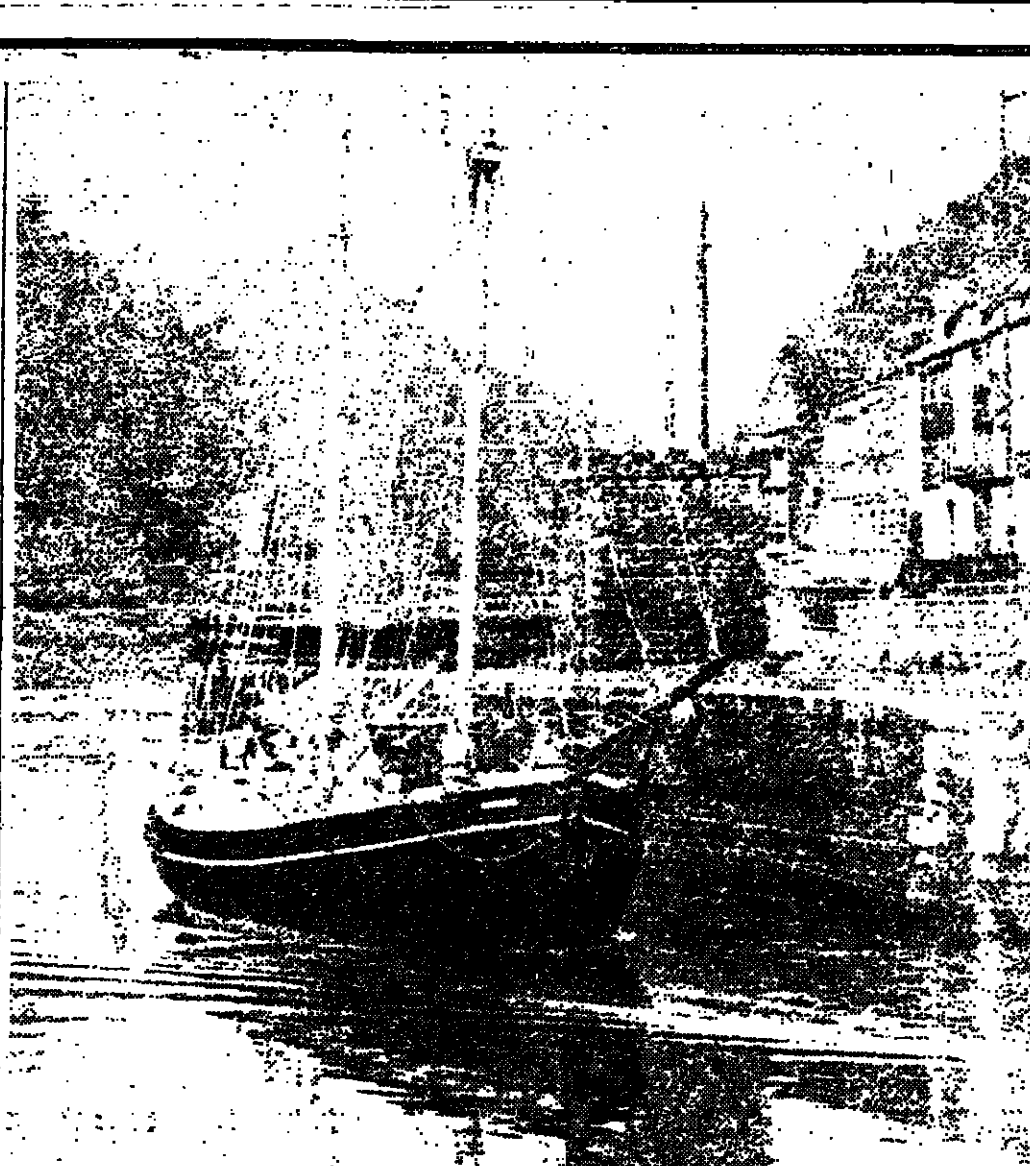
From Ronald Ross, Glasgow
A dispute arose yesterday between the Scottish Minister for the Environment, Mr. James Milne, and the Scottish Minister for the Economy, Mr. James Douglas, over the allocation of jobs in the civil service. Mr. Milne is of the opinion that the civil service should be expanded to deal with the increasing demands of the Scottish Government. Mr. Douglas, on the other hand, is of the opinion that the civil service should be reduced to save money. The dispute has been referred to the Scottish Cabinet for a decision.

Prisoner leave to go to hospital

From Ronald Ross, Glasgow
A prisoner in Glasgow has been granted leave to go to hospital. The prisoner, who is serving a sentence of five years for a violent crime, has been suffering from a serious illness. The prison authorities have decided to grant him leave to go to hospital for treatment. The prisoner is expected to return to prison after his treatment.

Later Walker trust was like no other, witness says

From Ronald Ross, Glasgow
An accountant said at a court hearing yesterday that the Walker trust was like no other. The accountant, who is a witness in the Walker case, said that the trust was set up for the purpose of avoiding taxes. He said that the trust was not a genuine trust and that the Walker family had no real interest in it. The court is now considering the accountant's evidence.



The Patriot, a 75-year-old sailing vessel, passing through the Avon Gorge to Bristol Docks, where she is to take part in a television film.

Conditions at hospital blamed for suicides

From Ronald Ross, Glasgow
Conditions at the psychiatric unit at Hackney Hospital, east London, are so bad that two patients have committed suicide in the past six months, Dr. John Reed, a consultant psychiatrist, said yesterday. Dr. Reed said that the conditions at the hospital were "appalling" and that the patients were not being properly treated. He said that the hospital was overcrowded and that the staff were not properly trained. He said that the patients were not being given the care and attention that they needed.

Salmon war erupts over Scots border

From Ronald Ross, Glasgow
A year-long salmon war in the Solway Firth is turning into an English-Scottish border dispute, with claims of English aggression against the north and Scottish meanness from the south. The dispute is over the fishing rights in the Solway Firth, which is a body of water between Scotland and England. The Scottish Government is claiming that the English are fishing in the firth without permission. The English Government is claiming that the Scottish are fishing in the firth without permission.

Hospital strike ends after 'patients at risk' warning

From Ronald Ross, Glasgow
More than 500 ancillary workers at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, voted yesterday to end a four-day-old strike and work normally from this morning. The strike was called by the workers because of a dispute over pay and conditions. The workers had threatened to go on strike if their demands were not met. The hospital management had agreed to meet the workers' demands, and the strike has ended.

Two accused of £275,000 demand to ICI

From Ronald Ross, Glasgow
Two men were remanded in custody at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday, charged with demanding £275,000 from ICI with menaces this month. The men, who are of Pakistani origin, are accused of demanding a large sum of money from ICI in exchange for some favour. The court is now considering the charges against the men.

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WEST EUROPE

French Prime Minister defends handling of Abu Daoud case and dismisses German protests

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Jan 14
The French Government has gone over to the offensive in the controversy over the release of Mr. Muhammad Daoud, known as Abu Daoud. M. Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, in a long interview with Agence France-Presse, refers euphemistically to "the hesitations" of the West German Government.
Although there is no desire in Paris to feed the flames of controversy, the official view is that the German protests are distinctly disingenuous, and that the Federal Government began to voice its indignation over the Palestinian leader's release when it was quite certain that he was out of reach.
M. Barre insists that the true identity of Mr. Youssef Raji Ben Hanna was not known to the French consulate in Beirut or to the authorities in Paris when a visa for his visit to France was issued.
He makes it clear that Mr. Abu Daoud was detained for questioning in compliance with a request from the West German authorities. The West German Minister of the Interior had personally telephoned his French counterpart, M. Michel Mitterand, to ensure that the Palestinian was kept in custody until the extradition request had been forwarded through diplomatic channels.
Under the Franco-German extradition agreement of 1951, the arrest warrant issued by the Munich judge had to be accompanied almost simultaneously by confirmation through diplomatic channels. This confirmation was never received in Paris.
M. Barre emphasizes that the release of the Palestinian leader was the result of a judicial decision, not of a political one. The question on which the Court of Appeal had to give a ruling was not his extradition, but his continued detention.
The Prime Minister says he himself was told of the West German request by the Minister of the Interior three hours after Mr. Abu Daoud had been detained. "We measured the political and diplomatic implications of such a detention, but we both agreed that it was necessary to follow up the German request".
The decision of the Court of Appeal was based on the fact that the demand for the arrest (as opposed to the detention for questioning), the first stage in an extradition procedure, was a political one, and had therefore to be confirmed through diplomatic channels. No confirmation had been received three days after the Palestinian leader was detained, it felt there were no grounds for prolonging it.
The Court eventually admitted in informal circles that this was an affair for which the French Government, whatever the course it chose, was bound to be violently criticized. The error was perhaps to give Mr. Abu Daoud a visa in the first place, and once he had come to France, to arrest him, instead of spiriting him out of the country. But it was practically impossible to do so once the German request had been received.
The West German Government, by failing to confirm the action of the Munich judge through diplomatic channels and start the formal extradition procedure, had made his release inevitable. The French Government, for its part, has formally protested to the Palestinian Liberation Organisation through its ambassador in Beirut against its demand for a visa under a false name for a man wanted in connexion with the Munich affair.
Paris, Jan 14.—In a telephone interview today Mr. Abu Daoud expressed astonishment that there had been widespread revulsion, particularly in the United States, at his being released. He said: "I'm not ashamed to see the Israeli angry, but I am astonished that the people living in a land called a land of liberty are angry for a justice thing."
He avoided associating himself with the Munich killings, saying he never said on a Jordanian television programme that he was involved.—AP.

Corsicans cheer Simeoni release

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, Jan 14
Dr Edmond Simeoni, the most prominent of the Corsican autonomist leaders, was released conditionally from the Santé Prison last night. He had served less than half of a prison sentence of five years, two of them suspended, for his part in the shooting incident in Algiers in August 1975. When a wine cellar invested by autonomists was taken by French troops, he and two others were killed.
The arrest and trial of the Corsican leader and his followers provoked a wave of protest and unrest throughout the island. The original charges of taking hostages and complicity in murder were dropped, and the Government was forced to release him.
In a statement to the French news agency, Dr Simeoni said he was long exiled in French prisons had no way to determine his determination to pursue the struggle to give his country and the Corsican people the means of survival and fulfilment.
By leaving him out of prison, the Government took a calculated risk. But Dr Simeoni has chosen to adopt a distinctly moderate attitude. In his statement, he also made it clear that he was not thinking in terms of separatism for Corsica.
He had the firm conviction, he said, that the Corsican crisis of identity could not be settled by material privileges.
"What Corsica needs today is much greater confidence in dialogue and cooperation rather than state credits. The French authorities would have to appreciate the situation more objectively, and give up a colonialist policy based on repression, lies, and petty maneuvering, on pain of seeing Corsican youth switch over to the anti-French camp."
He was hostile to all violence, but this had been provoked by French policy, he said. "What is desperately needed is unity and dialogue, to throw the situation and promote a fraternal and forward-looking Corsica with a specific place in the French community." He was convinced that peace and wisdom would prevail.

Lisbon anger at Opposition leader's criticism

From Richard Wigg, Lisbon, Jan 14
The bad personal relations between Dr Francisco Sá Carneiro, the Social Democrat leader, and leading members of Portugal's Socialist Government have deteriorated even further after critical remarks made by him in Madrid.
A top aide of Dr Soares, the Prime Minister, said that the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires to the Prime Minister's office to "explain" the Government's feelings and reject Dr Sá Carneiro's claim that Portugal was on the brink of bankruptcy, and that the Government was "incompetent" to solve the economic problems.
It appears that the Government considered making a protest to Madrid, against the fact that King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia had visited Portugal, agreed to receive the Portuguese Opposition leader after his remarks had appeared in the Spanish press. The Government did not take that step but the Portuguese radio continued today to speak of a "protest".
The Lisbon weekly news magazine 'Expresso' was not alone today in believing that Dr Sá Carneiro's "irritability" has spread to Dr Soares who previously was able to take persistent criticism.
Lisbon evening newspapers close to the Government last night launched a counter-attack of hitherto unequalled virulence against Dr Sá Carneiro. The 'Expresso' recalled today that Dr Sá Carneiro had never attacked the Caetano regime from abroad.
The Cabinet, after studying Dr Sá Carneiro's remarks yesterday, said that they were a "calumny" on the Government and not serving "the interests of the Portuguese state".
The extent of the Socialist reaction has led to the Socialist Party's rallying round their leader whose remarks had already provoked internal criticism. Politicians do not go abroad to criticize their own country, so the rule goes, least of all if they are Portuguese in Madrid.

Radioactive leak shuts atom power station

From Greta Spitzer, Berlin, Jan 14
East Germany has discontinued the publication of a legal gazette in order to demonstrate once again that in its opinion East Berlin is an German Democratic Republic and not subject to regulations which provide for a four-power status for all of Berlin.
In accordance with four-power regulations, West Berlin publishes a special gazette setting laws and decrees of the Federal Republic that apply to the city. Similarly the East Berlin authorities published the gazette 'Magistrat' which listed relevant laws and decrees of the GDR.
The last of the East Berlin gazettes appeared on September 20, 1976. It was only noted that East German officials were quoted by the newspaper 'Wahrheit' as stating that from January 1 there was no need for a special edition for East Berlin. All laws and decrees of the Volkskammer and the Government applied to all of the GDR, including its capital which was an integral part of the state.
Recent steps taken to demonstrate that East Berlin should be regarded as part of East Germany have been the introduction of visas for foreigners on one-day visits from West Berlin to East Berlin, and the abolition of control points on the border between East Berlin and West Germany.
Earlier this week the Western allies protested to the Soviet Government against East Germany's attempts to change the status of the city and reminded the Soviet Union of its commitments.
An allied spokesman said today that in the past the East Berlin legal gazette had sometimes not appeared for a period. He added: "The allied authorities would view any change in the procedure extremely seriously."

French actors call off television strike

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, Jan 14
A nine-week strike by French television actors and technicians, mainly over the number of original productions to be screened, was called off early this morning.
A compromise agreement had been reached during laborious negotiations guaranteeing that in the next three years the volume of original productions, such as series and plays, ordered by the three channels will increase steadily from 374 to 457, and that 30 operatic or ballet programmes a year will be broadcast.
New scale of remuneration have been set for actors. They will earn a minimum of 400 francs (£64) a day, or 350 francs in the event of a prolonged engagement.
The Ministry could not say how long the plan would stay shut. It was closed for three days last month because of a leak in the primary circulation system. A year ago, two men were killed by hot steam during repair works on a burst valve.—Reuter.

Doubts on Spanish kidnappers' identity

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, Jan 14
A high government official heightened speculation today that the kidnappers of one of the king's principal advisers were right-wing extremists masquerading as anti-fascists.
The official expressed the "very personal" opinion that "Grapo does not exist". He was referring to the self-styled First of October Anti-Fascist Resistance Groups, an organisation which has been holding Señor Antonio María de Oriol, the president of the Council of State, hostage since December 11.
The official's remarks were made on the same day on which it was learnt that a new message from the kidnappers had been received, together with a letter from Señor Oriol to his family.
Both were delivered by a young man who handed the envelope, marked "To the Editor, Urgent", to a doorman at the offices of the Madrid evening newspaper, 'Informaciones', last night.
The kidnappers' message was in a sealed envelope addressed to Señor Rodolfo Martín Villa, the Minister of the Interior. Sources said that it repeated Grapo's earlier demand for the release of 15 accused or convicted terrorists.
Señor Oriol's letter was in his own handwriting, and urged his family to resign themselves and pray. It also asked them to have his pictures published in the newspapers so that he could see them.
In a personal comment on the case, the high official said: "This is a tremendously strange case, an inexplicable one. My personal impression is that Grapo is more than an organisation at the service of something, or someone, and when that something or someone is discovered, many people are going to be surprised."
"Those who might benefit from an amnesty would not support the continuation of activities carried out by Grapo, because the effect is to make it harder for the Government to grant an amnesty. Whoever is behind this, seems to be well aware that the Government was considering a broader amnesty."
A number of activities were yesterday quoted in the Madrid evening newspaper 'Diario-16' as saying that he had evidence to suggest that the kidnapped man was being held at a right-wing training camp.

Basque mayors give cool reception to minister

From Our Correspondent, Madrid, Jan 14
Señor Rodolfo Martín Villa, the Minister of the Interior, was given the cold shoulder from Basque mayors today as he toured the north of Spain in what was an apology for his decision to prohibit a "summit meeting" of the mayors.
He met the mayors of 240 towns of the province of Navarra in Pamplona, but 25 of those who were invited to the "summit meeting" of the mayors.
Of those who did show up, five made it plain that they felt that the banning of their meeting was high-handed and unacceptable.
Señor Tomás Caballero, the mayor of Pamplona, told the minister: "You need not have bothered to come". The provincial authorities entertained Señor Martín Villa to lunch, but the mayors did not attend.
The latest military appointments, combined with a redefinition of the responsibilities in certain key posts, are expected to boost the Government's democratic reform programme.
The most significant was the promotion, at yesterday's Cabinet meeting, of Lieutenant General José Vega Rodríguez, as Army Chief of Staff and commander of the Army. Until now, military command of the Army has been an attribute of the Army Commander.
The change making the minister responsible for policy, and the Chief of Staff responsible for command, erects a barrier between politics and military matters.
The reorganisation of duties and responsibilities was carried out for the Navy in General Franco's lifetime. The same step is expected to be taken in the future for the Air Force.

East Germans close paper to make a Berlin point

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Human limb regeneration 'real possibility'

Humans may be capable of regrowing severed limbs by the year 2000, according to Professor Thomas Stent, an American, at Bradford University's School of Science and Society.
He said yesterday: "We regenerate an arm if you cut it off but a frog will not. However, a frog will do so if you give it certain hormone treatment."
"In mammals, including humans, if you cut off an arm, response of the organism is very similar to the unregenerated frog. There is no theoretical reason why some time in the future we should not know enough to form a limb bud, as we can in the frog, and then regenerate a whole limb."
"To do that we must understand how it is that cells divide sometimes, differentiate some-

Madeira protest at visit of Soviet envoy

From Our Own Correspondent, Funchal, Madeira, Jan 14.—About 100 demonstrators shouting: "Kalinin go home" greeted Mr Arnold Kalinin, the Soviet Ambassador to Portugal, when he arrived in Madeira.
Police and troops, who cordoned off Funchal harbour, eventually dispersed the demonstrators who waved flags of the Madeira Liberation Front, a separatist, conservative body agitating against the left-wing revolution on mainland Portugal. Slogans painted on walls in English and Russian said: "Get out Kalinin" and: "We do not want dictatorships or communism."
The recurrence of names such as Abraham, Ishmael and David means only that such names were common in the area at the time. Tablets containing what appear to be legends of the creation and the flood, similar to those in the Old Testament, mean only that such legends existed in the area before the Old Testament.

Women honoured in ancient city

Continued from page 1
The Jews appeared on the scene in Palestine 1,000 years later. "Much more important than any link with the Old Testament is the great contribution of this discovery to the history of humanity. It throws light on a very important period when urban civilization developed, people started living in towns, as they still do today."
The archives were found mostly in a small room in the royal palace of Ebla and the main part are the equivalent to the files of modern ministries of finance and foreign trade.
Although Ebla appears to have been a military power, there is a report of the conquest of the Mesopotamian city of Mari—the atmosphere appears more human and less warlike, than in Mesopotamia. The years were remembered by royal marriages, birth or journey, rather than conquests as in Mesopotamia, women were treated with honour and respect, at least in the royal household, while not even the name of a single queen is recorded in Mesopotamia.
Ebla was conquered about 2,300 BC and finally destroyed by Mesopotamia. It may have made the mistake of blocking Mesopotamia's access to the wood from the mountains in southern Lebanon and metal from Anatolia, needed to make bronze tools, weapons and other implements.

OVERSEAS

Arab extremists start taking new interest in potential of Cyprus

From Robert Risk
Nicosia, Jan 14

The new unity expressed by moderate Arab states for a Middle East peace initiative this year and the smothering of free speech in the Lebanese press have prompted a fresh interest in Cyprus among the more extreme political movements in the Arab world.

The Palestinian news agency Wafa, whose announcements are being subjected to strict censorship in Beirut and whose communications with the rest of the Arab states have been cut off, is considering opening an office in Nicosia. Moreover, Iraq, which is one of the two Arab states not supporting the present peace proposals, is to open an embassy in Cyprus within the next six months.

The Greek Cypriot Government does not want Cyprus to turn into an Arab sounding board, a substitute for the freedom which has been lost in Beirut. The Syrian Government is imposing a cease-fire in Lebanon. During the Lebanese civil war the authorities here became particularly concerned lest the large number of Lebanese refugees passing through Cyprus, more than 60,000, created friction among Arabs already in the island or among the local population.

President Makarios at one stage even feared that Muslim Lebanese would take up residence in the Turkish side of the island, leaving Christians in the east to settle in the Greek area, thus increasing political tension between the two parts of Cyprus. In the event, this did not happen.

The Cyprus Government emphasizes now that the presence of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation in the city is strictly controlled. But the three permanent staff members and their families have recently, if temporarily, been supplemented by a further four officials and they have been decorating a new office in a building which they rent a few hundred yards from their Nicosia headquarters.

Israeli ministers cannot resign, court says

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, Jan 14

The Israeli High Court ruled today that two independent Liberal Party ministers trying to leave Mr Rabin's Government may stay in the Cabinet until the national elections in May, while three dismissed National Religious Party (NRP) ministers must stay out of the Cabinet.

According to Mr Moshe Kol, the Minister of Tourism, and Mr Gideon Hausner, Minister without Portfolio, will resume participation in Cabinet meetings on Sunday and Mr Kol will again take over his ministerial duties.

However, the administration remains a minority government as it would lack a parliamentary majority even if the Independent Liberal deputies support it.

This situation developed from fast moving political events on December 20 when, within hours, the NRP ministers were dismissed, the Independent Liberals resigned and Mr Rabin himself resigned automatically bringing down the Government.

Peace this year call by Arab leaders

Aswan, Egypt, Jan 14.—President Sadat of Egypt and King Hussein of Jordan were reported to have emphasized in talks here today that 1977 must be a year devoted to settling the Middle East crisis.

Mr Ismail Fahmi, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, said the two Arab leaders agreed on the need for Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab territories and the creation of a separate Palestinian state.

President Sadat and King Hussein also agreed on Egyptian-Jordanian co-operation with other Arab states confronting Israel in order to achieve Arab unity.

Answering questions by reporters, Mr Fahmi said that among the main subjects discussed were efforts to prod all parties in the Middle East conflict to go to a renewed Geneva conference.

Asked whether he thought Israel would agree to the creation of a Palestinian state on the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip, Mr Fahmi replied: "The question is how to convince the Israelis. If they were to live in peace they must accept, otherwise we will ask for more."—Reuter.

Brezhnev warning on dangers of arms race

Moscow, Jan 14.—Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, said today that the future of democracy was endangered by a growing arms race.

In a message to the opening session of a Soviet-sponsored World Forum of Peace Forces, he said: "Either the arms race will bring in question the further advance of mankind along the road of progress, or the peoples will break by joint efforts the present dangerous spiral of the arms race."

The arms race was "a waste of spiritual and material resources" which were needed to combat hunger, disease, ill-

When he was asked if the Palestinian news agency would transfer any of its operations from Beirut, as Lebanese were suggesting last week, Mr Makarios said that a move by Wafa to Nicosia, involving several officials, was "to be expected".

The Iraqi first showed interest in setting up an embassy in Nicosia two years ago, an idea which met with some resistance from Turkish Cypriots, who were trying to gain support from Muslim nations for their mini-state on the eastern side of the island. Only recently, however, has it become known that the Iraqis intend to go ahead with their plans, appointing their present Councillor in Vienna as Charge d'Affaires in Nicosia. The Ambassador will be based in Beirut but will visit Cyprus regularly.

The Libyans who, like the Iraqis, want no part of the present Egyptian-Syrian peace initiative, are also appointing a new non-resident diplomat to Cyprus, Mr Abdul Wahab Zintani.

He has been based in Cyprus before but the fact that he has been recently serving as Ambassador in Moscow could indicate that the Libyan Government, which takes its relations with the Soviet Union very seriously, regards Cyprus as of increasing importance.

The Cypriot Socialist Party, Edeks, sent a delegation to Beirut last weekend for talks with the Palestinian Liberation Organisation. The discussions are held between the two movements on a regular basis but the meeting, which an Edeks representative described as "fruitful", has none the less given emphasis to the increased Palestinian interest in the island.

With its free press and easy access just 150 miles from Beirut it must seem an enticing base for the Palestinian public men whose voice has been so suddenly and efficiently silenced in Lebanon.

Mr Rabin, on the advice of the Attorney General, claimed that the Independent Liberal ministers were trapped because, under the law, their designation did not go into effect for 48 hours and resignation from a ministerial post is not permitted. This was upheld by the High Court, which ruled that the 48-hour wait was part of the resignation process and not a period to allow for second thoughts.

Meanwhile the Labour Party, attempting to preserve its alignment with the left-wing Mapai Party, continued to search for a formula regarding peace moves that would satisfy the more moderate partners. A committee including all three party candidates for the premiership today discussed proposals to be submitted to the party convention next month. Mr Danny Rosolio, the committee chairman, said after the meeting that all agreed that Israel should offer to negotiate a peace leading to defensible borders and involving territorial compromise "on all three fronts".

Plan to establish African social training centre

From Our Correspondent
Cairo, Jan 14

African Ministers of Social Affairs agreed today to establish an African social development training centre and appealed to member states of the Organisation of African Unity and to United Nations agencies to provide financial and technical assistance.

The ministers and social development experts from the United Nations and other international organizations were winding up a five-day conference in Alexandria on social problems.

Mrs Aisha Rateb, the Egyptian Minister of Social Affairs who was presiding over the conference, said that the resolution would be referred to African governments for ratification.

The resolution also asked the executive secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to coordinate activities leading to the establishment of the centre, its functioning and its coordination with present social training and research institutes in Africa.

Egypt has proposed that the centre, to cost about £3m, should be established in Marut, near Alexandria.

teracy and other world problems.

"Our party, and the Soviet people together with all the peoples of the world, are waging and will tirelessly wage a struggle against the stockpiling of more and more armaments."

More favourable conditions for strengthening peace had been created by the 1975 Helsinki conference. "But the further development of relaxation of tension is endangered by the continuing and even growing arms race."

The message was read to the forum by Mr Boris Ponomarev,



In the frozen wastes of New York's west side, where the jet from a water hose soon turns to ice, a fireman tries to regain his footing to continue the fight against a warehouse fire.

Bannings behind South African boycott could presage eventual Government recognition
Glimmer of hope for black unionsFrom Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Jan 14

Paradoxical though it may sound, the banning last November of 26 officials of South Africa's fledgling black trade union movement, which led to the call by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) for a boycott next week of South Africa, could in fact presage eventual Government recognition of African unions.

At present South African industrial legislation, enshrined in the Industrial Conciliation Act which was designed to protect white workers, excludes Africans from membership of registered unions and denies them the definition of "employees", even though they constitute more than 70 per cent of the country's work force.

Instead, the Government favours a system of works liaison committees, although this system has not proved popular among blacks and only a handful of committees exist. However, although not recognized by law, black trade unions are not illegal and it is possible for employers to enter into direct negotiations with these bodies. A hint that the Government may be planning to accommodate black trade unions was contained in the statement issued by Mr James Kruger, the Minister of Justice, at the time of the bannings. Arguing that he had acted against the officials (almost all of whom were white) because of their personal rather than union activities, he pointed out that he had not placed restrictions on "responsible black trade union leaders, nor do I contemplate doing so."

But what kind of recognition will this be? Will it, as some

fear, merely involve recognition of "responsible unions" which would then be brought under the control of existing white unions while the authorities take further action against those who are striving to establish fully-fledged African trade unions? If this were the case, then it would merely mean an extension of state control over the labour movement.

At the moment there are two main groupings within the black union movement. The first are known as "parallel" unions which are unregistered but work closely with registered (white) unions in the same industry. They comprise 11 separate unions, accounting for about 60 per cent of black trade union membership, including Mrs Lucy Mubelo's National Union of Clothing Workers with 23,000 members.

All are affiliated directly or indirectly with the Trade Union Congress of South Africa (TUCSA), the country's largest labour organization with 63,000 white members and 150,000 Coloureds and Asians.

Advocates of "parallelism" argue that in view of South Africa's labour legislation which prevents racially integrated unions, this form of partnership is a necessary intermediate stage in black trade union development. As Mr Arthur Grobbelaar, TUCSA's General Secretary, puts it, "parallel" unions are the stepping stone on the road to full participation by African workers in multiracial unions.

However, this line of argument is rejected by the second group of "independent" non-racial unions. They maintain that as a result of the Government's job reservation policies black and white workers have conflicting interests. In these circumstances "parallelism" is

little more than white paternalism.

This group comprises six Durban-based unions which come under the Trade Union Advisory and Co-ordinating Council (TUACC), nine Johannesburg-based ones which are linked to the Urban Trading Project (UTP) and the Allied Workers' Union (AWU) which identifies itself with the aims of the "black consciousness" movement.

These organizations do not reject links with registered unions but want to be equal and not subordinate to them. They believe that unless "parallel" unions establish an independent leadership and power base, they will become devices for the control of African workers and thereby legitimize the inequalities in job opportunities which exist in the labour market.

The recent spate of bannings took place among the leadership of the second group and was clearly designed to denude "independent" unions of their most effective organizers.

On the other hand the leadership of the "parallel" unions has remained unscathed and it is clear that the Government is thinking about these organizations when it refers to "responsible unions".

Recently support among African workers for "parallel" unions appears to have been on the wane. This is partly because they have not proved to be very effective but also because of their ties with TUCSA which has a history of vacillation in the face of Government pressure.

Mugabe faction of Zanu 'in pay of CIA'

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Members of the African nationalist movement Zanu (Zimbabwe African National Union), based in London, are switching their support to the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole, and withdrawing from the faction led by Mr Robert Mugabe.

Announcing the decision yesterday, Mr Austin Chikanda, former publicity secretary of Mr Mugabe's group in London, said that he was totally opposed to the Patriotic Front, which Mr Mugabe formed with Mr Joshua Nkomo.

He alleged that the Zanu section led by Mr Mugabe was in the pay of the Central Intelligence Agency with the aim of establishing control of Zimbabwe by members of the Karanga tribe.

Mr Sithole, who is expected to meet his supporters in London later this month, has been in disagreement with Mr Mugabe for some time. In a letter distributed by his new supporters yesterday, he claims that Mr Mugabe was inspired by his own intense personal ambition to become leader of Zanu and not by the liberation of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia).

Mr Chikanda said there were about 7,000 Zimbabweans in Britain, of whom he believed about half now supported Mr Sithole.

Choice of charge for Louget jury

Aspen, Colorado, Jan 14.—The judge in the Claudine Louget manslaughter trial today gave the jury the option of convicting the former wife of Andy Williams, the singer, on a lesser charge.

Miss Louget could be sentenced to 10 years in prison if convicted of reckless manslaughter in the death of Vladimir "Spider" Sabich, her lover. The alternative charge of negligent homicide carries a maximum prison sentence of two years.—Reuter.

PARLIAMENT, Jan 14, 1977

Planners condemn as villains in story of urban living conditions

House of Commons

Mr Geoffrey Finsberg (Camden, Hampstead, C), opening a debate on urban affairs, said: "Nobody could deny that the inner cities were decaying and might well soon be beyond rescue. The MPs had agreed to give notice to the House of Commons."

He welcomed the inner areas study report which was published on Wednesday. This gave ample proof of what MPs had been saying.

A city should be a place where people could lead a full life in every sense. It must be a place in which there was work and yet where there was to be attractive, in which there were places for leisure and education, places in which people could live. All this must be combined so that they did not get the curse of modern civilization—uncontrolled traffic.

If they lived in any city, London, Portsmouth, Liverpool, they could see monuments to the real villains of the present era—decaying planners.

Inner London, especially in the east and south, was in decline. The main loss had been from the skilled working class. The financial burden for the provision of services was carried by a decreasing number of people. There was a danger that the new downward trend in London could be accentuated and accelerated if it continued in the future.

Housing was at the core of the inner city problems. The increasing choice of would-be council house tenants was creating a local authorities' housing crisis. Sub-standard accommodation to people on their waiting lists.

A city in which ordinary families found it difficult to find reasonable accommodation at reasonable cost was bound to suffer serious social problems.

The neglected city (he said) breeds its own problems of vandalism, mugging, decay and unemployment, and perhaps worse of all, despair.

Mr Robert Mellish (Southwark, Bermondsey, Lab) said that when he was appointed a junior housing minister in 1964 he was aware that at all costs London must be demoted of population and industry because it was growing too fast and too fast and the other regions were suffering as a consequence.

Footlily enough (he said) I believed that and took the advice of these great planners. I spent my time doing all I could to urge industry and people to leave London. I look back now and recognise that that was the worst advice any government has ever been given.

Saying started that action, which previous Tory Governments had been advised to follow, they found it gained such a momentum that it became an enormous success. They made the mistake, and might be still making it today, of regarding London in the same context as the south-east.

For certain reasons, appalling mistakes were made about slum clearance and tower blocks. No local authority today would have the temerity, the impudence, to put forward any such scheme for a tower block. That was out.

Thought there would be several thousand young people in London who had nowhere to sleep. It was no good the Department of the Environment saying it was not their problem. He wanted Government involvement in dealing with homelessness.

Mr Anthony Grant (Harrow, Central, C) said that if they were going to achieve a sensible and viable economic development, the cities there had got to be changed in the Office Development Permit and Industrial Development Certificate policies. Further relaxation of the IDP policy was necessary.

When, in the previous Government, he had been asked to look at the IDP policy he had been unable to find any evidence that the effect of refusing a certificate to a relatively small firm ever resulted in

that firm moving to Clonsilla or Northampton. Mrs Millie Miller (Harrow, North, Lab) said that the conscious decision to bring about that which had developed chaos in the capital was to understand patterns of families in the inner cities.

Even now, she said, did anyone know what the creative estates and areas which redevelopment was supposed to bring about? Who used to enjoy living in their families and neighbourhoods, instead of giving people long commutes to work, where they should consider leaving, at the end of the day, should be negotiations on the council and tenants on the one hand and the Office Development Permit, and Office Development Permit, should be considered.

There was no need to turn to the Office Bureau, and the boroughs should develop comprehensive plans which were job-creating. Mr Laurence Pavia (Lab) said some of the people who had been turned out of their homes had people living in the city who did not have a 15-minute commute.

Mr Reginald Eyre (Harrow, Central, C) said economic future and social conditions were largely determined by cities. They must try to ensure that they were not in a coping position.

Mr Timothy Sainsbury (For the Opposition) said that the private sector without affecting the security of the city would be a disaster. This would be a disaster for the city and for the country. He would like to see a reversion to the old system of letting houses to tenants on a long-term basis, whether resident or not, to obtain a reasonable return on their investment.

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selections

tacing Correspondent

Jim. 1.35 BRAVE KID is specially recommended. 2.10 2.40 Stubbsick. 3.15 Summerville. 3.45 Tammer Fors.

Newmarket Correspondent

is. 3.45 Royal Doon.

ie record

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GHAM (Alabama): I. Nantase
F beat W. Fiehek (Poland).
5. V. Gennadiyev (USSR) beat
N (USSR) 6-3. 6-3. 6-3.
7. (USSR) beat G. Mayer (USSR).
8. R. Moore (Soviet)
9. W. Martin (USSR) 6-3.

AND: R. Lewis (GB) beat
1. New Zealand.
2. W. Amner (England).
3. M. Kieckhefer (West Ger-
any).
4. Miss N. Sato (Japan).
5. Miss S. Kuznetsov (USSR).
6. 34346 K. Harter (USA).

Real tennis

PHILADELPHIA: United States
championship: Quarter-final results.
Groups (USA) beat W. Smith
6-1, 8-0; C. Bonadoni (Aust)
beat M. Dean (GB), 6-2, 8-0.

Squash rackets

PHILADELPHIA: North Am-
erican championship: Final round
hunt (Australia) beat J. Reese
11-1, 10-12, 15-10. 16-11.
Jahar (Pakistan) beat K.
(Canada) 15-12, 15-10.
Satterthwaite (USA) beat J. de
france (Mexico) 17-10, 12-10.

Klammer caught in mid air during practice on the famous Hahnenkamm course yesterday.

Nitzschehl, Austria, Jan. 14—Austria's downhill skier, Franz Klammer, tomorrow seeks a record-breaking third successive win on the Hahnenkamm, one of the world's most thrilling courses.

Klammer, a 26-year-old farmer's son who has not lost a World Cup downhill for almost a year, is already sure of his place in the sporting history books.

Today he was favoured by the favourite by setting the fastest practice time, 0.51sec ahead of his most consistent world cup rival, Sweden's Ingemar Johansson.

For the past two seasons 29-year-old Russi has dogged the Austrian's tracks, taking the silver medal in the Innsbruck slalom last season and the bronze in Klammer took the gold. "If Klammer races as expected, if he doesn't fall or make a bad mistake, he can't be beaten," the Austrian trainer Karl Kruis predicted.

M. Kalrh is hoping that the thrusting young Austrian team will continue to show the overwhelming dominance of the previous three downhillers. But the Hahnenkamm (Coxcomb), but generally known as the "Kaisertobel" is a test of speed and experience just as much as a sliding course. The best testimony to this was given two years ago by the American slalomist Ted Herget, four times winner of the World Cup, when he came in second, three thousandths of a second behind Klammer.

Russi said the practice runs today in bright sunshine indicated tomorrow's race would be dramatic. "If conditions stayed the same," There are lots of little bumps and waves which could give a very fine touch over the ski," he said. "I really think one of the most selective courses in the world."

Tomorrow's downhill could prove to be a battle between an assault on the World Cup, the prize that has eluded him so far. This season, after only three wins, he has been lying fourth with 75 points behind champion Austria, Klaus Heidegger, who has 90, and Sweden's Ingemar Johansson with 79. But the signs are that the two top world slalom specialists may cancel each other out this season.

Kritzschehl is the first spot on the men's World Cup where where combined points will be awarded for Saturday's downhill and Sunday's slalom. The two slaloms for the combined points probably Walter Treichl, of Switzerland, but Klammer could gain ground on Stenmark, last season's runner-up, who went with even a passable placing in slalom—Renter.

WORLD CUP SLALOM TIMING RESULTS: First run, 1978-79, Feb. 1, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Second run, 1978-79, Feb. 2, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Third run, 1978-79, Feb. 3, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Fourth run, 1978-79, Feb. 4, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Fifth run, 1978-79, Feb. 5, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Sixth run, 1978-79, Feb. 6, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Seventh run, 1978-79, Feb. 7, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Eighth run, 1978-79, Feb. 8, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Ninth run, 1978-79, Feb. 9, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Tenth run, 1978-79, Feb. 10, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Eleventh run, 1978-79, Feb. 11, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Twelfth run, 1978-79, Feb. 12, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Thirteenth run, 1978-79, Feb. 13, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Fourteenth run, 1978-79, Feb. 14, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Fifteenth run, 1978-79, Feb. 15, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Sixteenth run, 1978-79, Feb. 16, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Seventeenth run, 1978-79, Feb. 17, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Eighteenth run, 1978-79, Feb. 18, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Nineteenth run, 1978-79, Feb. 19, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Twentieth run, 1978-79, Feb. 20, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Twenty-first run, 1978-79, Feb. 21, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Twenty-second run, 1978-79, Feb. 22, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Twenty-third run, 1978-79, Feb. 23, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Twenty-fourth run, 1978-79, Feb. 24, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Twenty-fifth run, 1978-79, Feb. 25, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Twenty-sixth run, 1978-79, Feb. 26, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Twenty-seventh run, 1978-79, Feb. 27, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Twenty-eighth run, 1978-79, Feb. 28, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Twenty-ninth run, 1978-79, Feb. 29, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria. Thirtieth run, 1978-79, Feb. 30, 1979, at Innsbruck, Austria.

[illegible]

Hollywood, Florida, Jan. 14.—Susan Barker, of Britain, was not defeated yesterday when she defeated Renata Tomanova, 6-0, 3-6, 7-5, to reach the quarter final round of the tennis tournament here. I've got so much confidence against her, I said before the match, Miss Barker said she has never lost against her Czechoslovak opponent.

Each striving for precision, will have but one objective tomorrow—to be among the last eight in the national club championship, sponsored by Benson and Hedges, at Crystal Palace on March 4. Matches will be played at Walthamstow Sports Centre, East Ham; Kew Gardens Sports Hall, Richmond; Kerridge Sports Hall, Cambridge; the Moupin Sports Centre,

four centres are split into two pools from which only the winners will qualify. Hounslow and St Albans will reach the final in 1975, are at Rothamsted in separate pools and both should win, Hounslow more readily with the services

Urdu too much. She hits the ball solidly. It's a nice pace for me. I don't have to start changing my game. I just hit side to side.

Adelaide, Jan. 14.—Only two matches were completed in the 75,000 men's tennis tournament because of heavy rainfall here. Amaya, the big-serving American left-hander, fought his way to the semi-final round with an exciting win over Colin Dibley, of Australia. Amaya, who is 22, was taken to three sets before winning from Intenzar and Hoffma back after injury in midfield.

Date for selection

Sydney, Jan. 14.—The Australian cricket team of 17 to tour England this summer will be chosen on March 17. Players will be paid a tour allowance of about

room passage to the quarter-
ground round when his fellow
countrymen, Ul Marreen, forfeit
the match after trailing 3-0 in
the second set. Gehring took the
first set 6-3 last night before the
match was postponed.—Reuter.

cricket

MONTIGO BAY: *Shoni Shield:* Windard and Tobago, 278 for five (15. James 11A not out, D. Murray 46; Wright 3 for 69).

MONTERRAT: *Shoni Shield:* Lee-rod and Windward Islands, 518 for five (14.3. Phillip 11A not out, 101).

French warm-up

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Boston Braves
Los Angeles Kings 5; Buffalo Sabres
New York Rangers 5; Colorado
Avalanches 4, Detroit Redwings 2.

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

Immunisierungsdokumente

Sydney, Jan. 14.—Pakistan's opening bowlers, Imran Khan and Sarfraz Nawaz, humbled the strong Australian batting on the first day of the third and final ball doing something, and it was that odd ball which was taking wickets. "I don't think we batted so badly, and there were only a couple of bad shots all

PAKISTAN: Mafid Khan, Sadiq Mohammad, Zaheer Abbas, Mushaq Mohammad, Haroon Rashid, Asir Iqbal Javed Ali, Imran Khan, Saif-uz-Nawaz, Wasim Bari, Iqbal Qasim.—Renter.

Barrett, who scored a total of 10 goals for England at Cardiff last week. St Albans will have to backhitch to overcome. Two London clubs, **Tulse Hill** will have to beat Dulwich who reached the quarter-final stage in 1975, but just failed to make it last season. Beckenham and **Tulse Hill** are expected to qualify from

Spencer, seem the most experienced of the eight at Bristol and go through Tulse Hill and the Marlboroughs, who have been marked and are being anguished themselves at Cardiff, especially particularly with two brilliant goals for England. However, the Marlboroughs, however, at most of the talent is concentrated. Guildford, last year's champion, they beat Beckenham 10-0, and they are the only team in the East. Guildford, Northampton Saints and Wexford, no doubt have no problems. No doubt a player, however, has been in the pool Sunday Express in the England pool Bedfordshire Eagles

Depth (m)	Conditions Off Buoy to	Weather (5 km)
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	L	U	Piste	Var	And	—	*C
				piste	resort	(3 km)	
Jampéry	50	150	Fair	Varied	Good	Cloud	-3
Strong wind, but still snowing							
Trans-Montana	90	160	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-7
Powder snow on hard base							
Jivos	70	155	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-4
Excellent skiing conditions							
Alpe	90	215	Fair	Powder	Good	Snow	-4
Heavy snowfall, poor visibility							

Menusires	52	16S	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-2
Wind on upper slopes							
Anton	60	12S	Good	Varied	Good	Cloud	-2

Good skiing on upper slopes as-Fe	75	200	Good	Fair	Good	Snow	-5
Generally good skiing	40	85	Good	Powder	Good	Cloud	0
Very few worn patches of d'Isere	50	155	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-5
Powder snow on hard base	60	160	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	0
Heavy powder on all runs	55	90	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-1

the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from other sources:

Depth 1 cm	State of Ice Plate	Weather °C	FRANCE Corbassal La Tour Alpes Megève Pre-Leup	50 140 80 150 300	Good Good Good Good Good	Cloud Sun Snow Snow Snow
100 110	Good	-14				
200 110	Good	-12				
400 105	Good	-20				
100 110	Good	-8				
185 150	Good	-R				

SCOTLAND: Cairnmore: Main runs and lower slopes: all runs complete.

[illegible]

51. 4-142. 5-162.
BOWLING: (to date): Madan Lal, 5-5-27-2; Amarnath, 2-0-19-0; Chandrasekhar, 20-4-50-0; Bedi, 0-9-44-1; Prasanna, 15-6-25-0.

INDIA: *B. S. Bedi, S. M. Gavaskar, B. Venkatarao, M. Amarnath, G. R. Iswanathan, R. P. Patel, A. W. Mankad, Madan Lal, S. M. H. Kimmanji, E. S. Prasanna, B. S. Chandrasekhar.

Competitors may qualify to take part by correctly solving and submitting this puzzle. Competitors should complete the puzzle and return form and post it with entry fee of £1 by first class

I enclose cheque/PO for £1.00 payable to Grand Metropolitan Hotels Ltd, my entry fee for the Curry Sark/Times National Crossword Championship.

Name (please print)

1	2	3	4	5	6
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

16	17	18				19	20	
21				22	23			

24								25						
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ACROSS 5 Millais's 'horizontal nymph'?

1 A proposition shows lack of spirit after a storm of passion (4, 8).	6 Elevate with superior eulogy (7).
8 A number of sheep turn about in the opening (7).	7 Illyrian burper? (3, 4, 5).
	10 Big Bobby caught by phan-

9 In the legion they take care of short change (7).
11 Hornblower given the key of part of London? (7).
12 Ordinary shellback, one tom rainbow-maker (12).
15 What images gives us calm air with turbulence? (9).
17 Tenacious old grey-beard loon (7).

13 Cudgel or tack (5).	18 Second to Honour in the Love(lace) Stakes (7).
14 Acts in the new one (9).	19 Rome's first "fascists" ?
16 Indistinctly uttered order to petty officials (9).	20 Ouar's light noose-maker

19 How to catch a girl—with a ring (5).
21 Like ballads written by poets—for Orpheus? (7).
23 RAF type with whom one has a personal acquaintance (5).

24 Worker spotted no hawk
(7).

25 Photograph what the runners-up do in the Cup (5-7).

GUARDIANEER BEE
N I R N C H R O M E
W E L C O M E D U S T F

26 Inhalant from the Tuck Shop? (6, 6).

DOWN

1 The devout embracing the

1 The devout embracing the
disheartened, pathetic (7).

2 Undress which upset, say,
the Italian general (7).

3 Cancelled order to get
aboard (9).

4 Rulers with pens, not pencils, we hear? (5).

An expatriate view of America

by J. P. Donleavy/Part 2

I had now spent some months in America following my return from an extended education in Europe. Comforted to a limited degree as I continued to write *The Ginger Man*, by Gaius Crisp who was now rapidly wondering himself if he had been wise to decamp from London and join me. I revisited places of my childhood. Back to a white old mansion behind three great pines on route 22, south of Bedford, New York State, where as a child I had built my model aeroplanes in a back corner bedroom and, as the struts were drying, I used to drop stones on the snakes sunning below who had a nest in the corner of the building. I did I think have the excuse that an older local boy said that the snakes were copperheads. And the fear of such snakes, were like the fears intensifying something in one's bowels that was saying no to this land. Where my childhood friends were growing up, just as their parents did, to be trapped trembling and terrified in a nightmare.

But something in one's bowels was saying no to this land. Where my childhood friends were growing up, just as their parents did, to be trapped trembling and terrified in a nightmare. And temporarily to comfort myself with the reassurance that there had survived before me other writers on this massive continent, I paid a visit, on my return to New York, to Herman Melville's grave. It was in a cemetery I had known from childhood and in which during a school summer vacation I had cut grass. For an author often another author's life can feed him some romantic energy to keep tempered the tenacity of his own brooding, pessimistic spirit. But at the cemetery, and unlike Shakespeare's Stratford upon Avon, it seemed they had never heard of the man, and searched out the location from his file and helpfully marked it on a map. I could see as I reached the tree-shaded hill that not many, if any, previous feet had come to read some heartfelt words Melville may have written on the gravestone of a son who predeceased him. And on his own tomb was chiselled a feather pen. That his next of kin felt him worthy of. To tell a stranger that here lay a man in whose life there had been the written word.

And through that struggling parsimonious year, the idea that America wanted great writers and great books to heap rewards upon them, relentlessly vanished. I was told by my father that you couldn't get anywhere unless you got on a big TV programme like the Ed Sullivan show. And this suggestion was as crushing as, alas it was true. And centuries away from my own fist shaking determination and resolve. Which was now that I had to escape or die. For even if I were to gladface on that box to the millions of eyes, I knew that my uncensored two or three cents worth in their ears would have them jumping in their cars and heading to the studio to stomp and strangle me. But then, I was getting what writers never really want to accept: that they thrive on. Obscurity and rejection. And this is what America gives in abundance. However, with my energy spent, and my vengeance sworn with the words I wrote, I now knew that a lyric voice could not be heard unless heralded coast to coast by a throbbing promotional media campaign. And that that country, be it the house of my birth and where I grew up, was not about to give it to me. And if I stayed, they would, without even trying, or knowing, kill me.

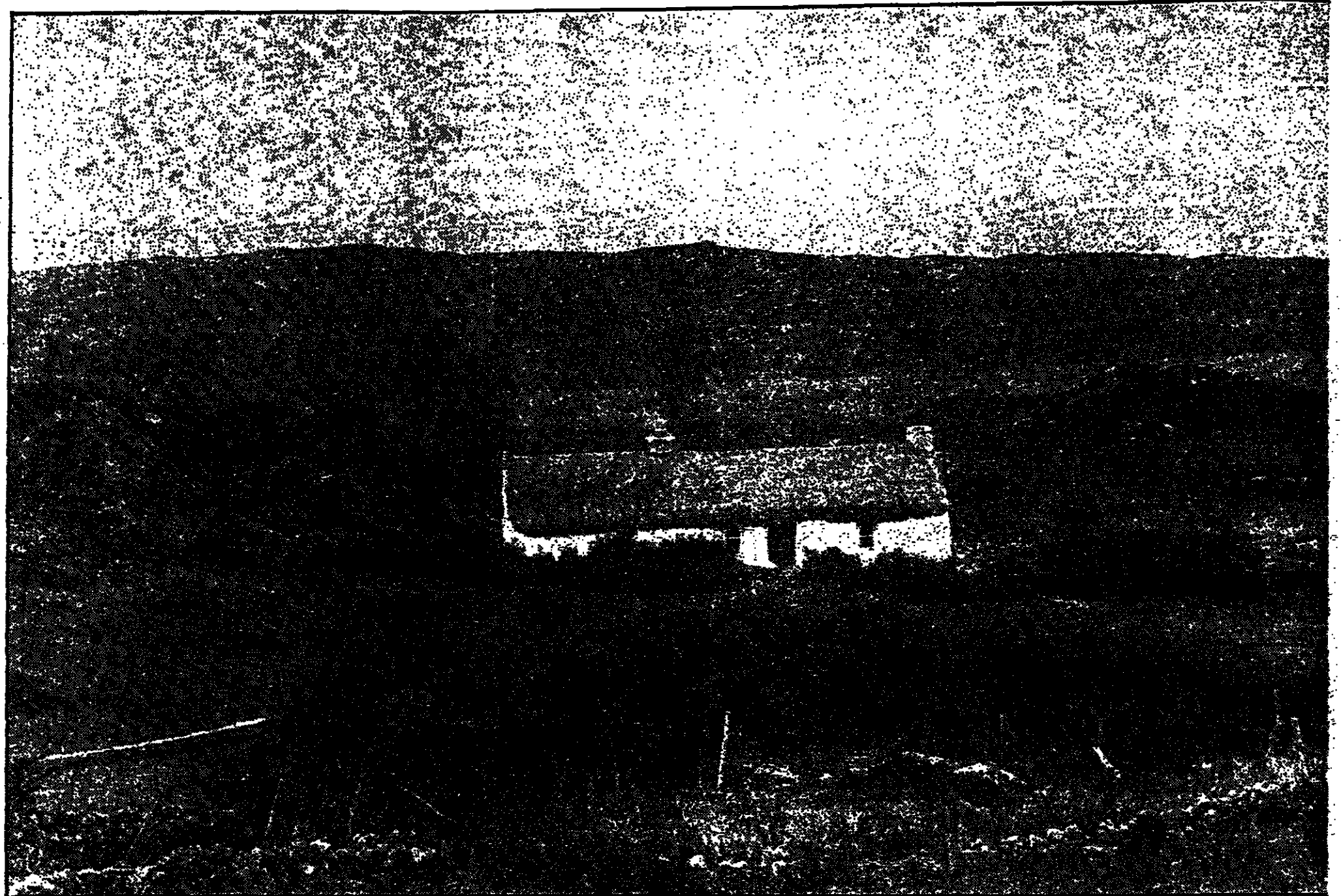
I saved my dollars and dimes in dribs and drabs in desperate anxiety to buy a ticket to catch the Europe boat. Even popping nickels and pennies, one by one into a cigar box atop my dresser. My first wife and child Philip had already flown. And in that white old house on a hill in the Bronx I pulled the shades down to the sill so that no one could draw a head and shoot me before I got out. When I could muster the confidence, I walked in the cemetery of Herman Melville. And met Gaius Crisp there in the wintry snow between the mausoleums. He approved the set-

ting but mildly objected to the inconvenience. But at least he agreed that in there, sitting on the marble steps up to the sepulchres of the rich or of some robber baron's tomb, we were in peace and safety. Albeit a hell of a lot poorer even though alive, than those entombed so splendidly dead. And now with the myth of America as the place you could return to, shattered.

Slowly, but even more surely, one's own life began to explode. On a drunken Greenwich Village spree with Gaius Crisp I had badly cut my wrist putting my fist through a pane of glass as I missed something I was trying to hit. A kindly taxi driver drove me free of charge to St Vincent's Hospital. And I remembered a previous taxi trip in Europe when, with me in my death throes, the driver demanded to be paid. And my brother T. J. who played his haunting Knolly Wood Concerto simultaneously on two pianos waking me at 3 am, had nearly been stabbed to death by a pair of aggrieved hispanics downtown. Who after he had taken them to a party and his hostess had asked them all to leave, tried to kill him for the slight. Daily I went on a pilgrimage to Bellevue Hospital, that massive pile of wards, corridors and morgue by a grey cold East River. Where my brother lay hourly hanging on by a thread of life. My voice becoming fainter coming out of my throat. And Gaius Crisp in his own ridiculous desperations, and now under constant siege from many aggrieved citizens of the United States, supplied the only distractions I got. And even so, a far better survivor than I was, was also seeing his sights to recross at the first moment possible that deep blue green Atlantic. But I never thought for one second that in the chaos of his life he would ever make it.

I sat holding on to the edges of my desk fighting and fighting to keep afloat in a sea of despair. Knowing bleakly in my bones that my voice was not going to be heard in America. Where some strange ghost seemed to arise and chase us. And point a finger. Because we were traitors to the wonderful happy way of American life. And this spectre was everywhere. On the ceaseless groaning warning highways. Written on the faces in the subways, buses and bars. And Gaius for a few days hid out with me in the Bronx. Later saying that he remembered it as the most peaceful and pleasant time he had ever spent. Even my father, weaker in his years and perhaps dimmer in his belief that his life was beginning to die, voiced contentment. Where, over orange juice, pots of coffee and frying sausage meat in the kitchen, my younger brother T. J. was lecturing, regaled us on the witty sunny mornings with stories of his once selling cemetery plots and grave stones. And how in six months he did not sell one. Which he thought was because of his well brought up gentle demeanour. With both Crisp and myself thinking that soon we would be becoming his first customers. But someone got wind of Gaius's whereabouts. In this tiny cut off community of Woodtown in this most northernmost Bronx. And threats suddenly got closer, deciding him to retreat to what he was sure was absolutely secure rural harmony with sympathetic friends in Woodstock, up state New York.

And some days later a letter arrived written January 25, 1953, which began:



Above: Ireland, with its heather and gorse and all its sanitary shortcomings.



Left: New York, where the elderly move in terror through the streets hoping to get back to their lock enfettered doors alive with their groceries

"My dear Mike, My God!! This has been an unbelievable nightmare."

He related a story, which even I, who had always been of the opinion that he was more than mildly lacking in certain discretions and unheeding of clearly impending pitfalls, thought he did not deserve. He had, in sandals in a snow storm, begun by hitchhiking from the George Washington Bridge. And got picked up three successive times by three successive and persistently aggressive homosexuals. To whom he kindly explained that his life was already too complicated for him to do justice to or encourage their advances. And would they please just let him out in the snow storm again. His letter ended with "May B.O.P. intercede for us all". These initials stood for the Blessed Oliver Plunkett, Ireland's martyred Bishop of Armagh of Cromwell's time, who now, as a result of such intercessions has by the power of Christ and Rome, been made a saint. Gaius had, among other unfortunate things, been at the wheel of a borrowed car on an empty road while rescuing a lost lesbian. And forgetting what country he was in, drove on the left Irish English side. A marvellous custom those two races retain in common. And

shortly there came, with the first other car to approach in the middle of a continuing blizzard at 3 am, a head-on collision. Without a driving licence Gaius Crisp had been arrested and stood trial at 4 am, before a pyramid Justice of the Peace in that gentleman's cellar. He was humanely only fined but having no money, the reluctant Judge was compelled to imprison him in Kingston Jail. His knees as a result of the accident were swollen up like footballs. Late the next day, his hostess with whom he was staying paid his fine. He returned with her where they both decided they needed a good stiff drink. Gaius sat in his sofa chair with the bottle next to him. His hostess crossed the sittingroom floor to get some ice. Halfway there she disappeared from sight. For the first time in his kindly gentlemanly life, although he did however reserve moments for administering violent instant justice, he did not instantly leap to aid a female surely gone somewhere in distress and certainly out of sight. But instead Gaius uncorked the whisky bottle and lifted it to his lips. And in one long Dublin gargle swigged nearly the entire contents. And though Protestant he was, he then blessed himself with the sign of the cross and said the

Roman Catholic act of contrition. When hobbling to investigate, as noble chap he always ultimately was, particularly with ladies, he found himself staring down into a black chill abyss. His hostess had fallen through a trap door under a rug on the floor and plunged fifteen feet down into a cellar where she badly sprained one and broke her other ankle. And when Gaius had a reflective moment to express words again, they came to my ears from his very heart.

"Mike, pray God I may escape this bloody place before further disaster overtakes me. I must get out of here before I wind up in an asylum for the insane."

And so on a cold 3 o'clock afternoon in February some twenty-five years ago, hysterically mute and with the western setting sun bleakly blazing a red tint across Hoboken, I stood on the stern of a ship ready to set sail for Europe. The pink lights glinting on the thousands of stacked-up skyscraper windows of Manhattan Island. The Hudson grey, dark and cold. Fleeing this nation on the back of the good ship Franconia and on one of that vessel's very last journeys. Leaving this land that was in its culturally commercial way, conquering the entire earth.

As well as me. They were serving beef tea in the garden lounge topside. The skipper on his bridge. Lines being cast off and tugboats waiting to nudge the vessel midstream. And then I heard Crisp. Racing and pounding down the pier. With his paper bag, and a wicker basket covered gallon of milk. He was shouting as they drew up the gangway and he jumped the last couple of feet. Together we watched the New York skyline disappear in a winter's gathering afternoon mist. My voice gone. I wrote on the ship's stationery for my stalwart companion, Gaius Crisp. Stephen Crisp words that have gone through my mind on my every visit to the United States since.


"There it goes, a runaway horse, with no one in control." I had spent my most solitary Christmas eve ever, in the front bedroom of my Bronx childhood home, listening to the choir of King's College, Cambridge. Heartily homesick for some gorse and heather covered piece of land I hoped would await my return some where in Europe, somewhere in Ireland. With all the latter's sanitary shortcomings. And Gaius Crisp had spent his last days sleeping on the subways. Carrying with him his trusty immigrant's brown paper bag. Which contained among other

sentimental and practical things, two child's cowboy suits for his daughters in Europe, a sweater, corkscrew, piece of cheese, length of rope, and an Aran Islander's hat. This last a navy blue thick woolly head covering with a tassel which he wore on his interborough rapid transit journeys going nowhere from last stop to last stop. And one wondered, what did not America have for us. It could have been as simple a thing as that bushel of dollars we always dreamed was there. But even though one could have taken fistfuls of that mullah and celebratorily thrown it up to come down again in a soothing shower from the sky, one somehow felt that with no kindred spirits like our own ready to speak and say, "This place stinks". That money alone would never be enough. Even though money is always enough. And yet if there were voices of dissent and if they did dare speak. One could have said, "This place really stinks".

Yet, in my first months in New York I had my marvelous long walks. When my work each day on *The Ginger Man* finished sometime after one pm and I would go down the steep hill to Katonah Avenue to catch the bus along the cemetery fence to the ele-

vated train. And stare this roaring vehicle into stacked up windows of Bronx until it plunged ward past the Yankee Stadium and let me off walking in the sunlight of the dow city where I would wander and wander. For reverie born from the st of faces, buildings and a where each man was as carefully as he could fragile breakable spirit, clutched my few feeble d wondering more than a where I would get some m. Late afternoon I'd ret the New York Athletic C tall grey stone tower over ing Central Park, to war in the gym, followed b boxing room. Where talked to the resident pl phers Arthur Donovan Frank Fulham. And this boxing instructor, who much more for my hope contentment than he d my left and right hooks would, when I said, I painted some pictures, the next day with introd to the best galleries on seventh street. And w said I was instead now a novel, he had ready the afternoon further introdu to publishers and p extant in the Book of Month Club. And as m

Continued on opposite

 **MOZART**
Serenade in D major K.250 (Haffner)
Requiem

JENNIFER SMITH soprano	PHILIP LANGFORD tenor
HELEN WATTS contralto	STAFFORD DEAN bass

THE ACADEMY & CHORUS OF ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS
First appearance in London of the Academy Chorus
NEVILLE MARRINER conductor

LASZLO HELTAY chorus master

Tickets: £1.50, £1.00, 75p, 50p from Box Office (01-589 8212), Tube & Ticket

Bridge

No justice

After studying tournament records for half a century I am convinced that luck plays a substantial part in duplicate as in rubber bridge. Skill alone does not win matches—least of all pairs tournaments. Partners who play their cards faultlessly do not always emerge with scores above those obtained by pairs who allow for an occasional mistake by opponents or who expect that fortune is constantly smiling upon them. Whether owing to desperation or nervousness, one player can be inspired to take an apparently ludicrous chance and succeed whilst another may be unjustly rewarded for refusal to take a risk of any kind.

Competitors in international events are not less dependent on lucky breaks than those who confine themselves to a weekly duplicate match in their local club. The only fact which emerges is that the standard methods of scoring give an advantage to those who overbid their cards against powerful opposition and that the victims of unusually brilliant play—or of bidding which deprives them of their maximum score—are not awarded adequate compensation.

Here is a deal where gross overbidding was unduly rewarded.

Game all; dealer East.

♠ 5 4
♥ 10 7
♦ K J 8 5
♣ 10 7 5 2

♠ 10 8 7 2
♥ A 10 7 6
♦ A 10 7 5
♣ A 10 7 6

♠ 10 8 7 2
♥ A 10 7 6
♦ A 10 7 5
♣ A 10 7 6

♠ 10 8 7 2
♥ A 10 7 6
♦ A 10 7 5
♣ A 10 7 6

won with the ♠A, drew the last trump, cashed dummy's two winning clubs and played a small diamond to his hand, losing the ♠10 to the ♠J. West perforce led a diamond which ran to the ♠Q and declarer emerged with nine tricks, giving East West bottom score. Possibly East should have won the opening heart and returned a diamond which would destroy the end-play; but even with a penalty bonus of 500 the defenders would not have improved their position against all the East-West pairs who played and made Four Hearts.

A superlative defence against a slam gives one pair a substantial score, but the declarer and his partner are unduly punished if they alone fail to make the contract.

North South game; dealer South.

♠ 10 8 7 2
♥ A 10 7 6
♦ A 10 7 5
♣ A 10 7 6

♠ 10 8 7 2
♥ A 10 7 6
♦ A 10 7 5
♣ A 10 7 6

♠ 10 8 7 2
♥ A 10 7 6
♦ A 10 7 5
♣ A 10 7 6

♠ 10 8 7 2
♥ A 10 7 6
♦ A 10 7 5
♣ A 10 7 6

Edward Mayer

Gardening

Potatoes in the pink

For some years past Pink Fir Apple, the variety of potato much esteemed for use as potato salad, has been unavailable. So I am glad to report that limited quantities of seed tubers of this variety are available this year. This new stock is virus-free and has been developed by the meristem cuttings system. It is claimed to give a yield several times greater than was obtained from the old stocks of this variety.

Supplies this year will be limited to five pounds to any one customer, and the delivered price is £3 cash with order. The suppliers are Phoenix Garden Bulb Co Ltd, 15 Great George Street, Bristol. They wisely point out that as this is a late maturing variety it is important to keep the hauls (the top growth) healthy by regular spraying against aphids, which of course can transmit virus diseases from sick to healthy plants, and to spray against potato blight at the appropriate season.

They also suggest that foliar feeding would be an aid to a heavy yield. I must say that while I am a great advocate of foliar feeding, I had not thought of giving it to potatoes before. But as foliar feeding greatly stimulates root action it would seem logical that it would increase the yield of potatoes. Certainly irrigation at the right time in dry spells greatly increases the yield of potatoes.

Much breeding work with fruits and vegetables has been going on over the past 10 years or so in various horticultural institutes and other national establishments. This work is, of course, primarily directed to the production of improved varieties for the commercial grower, and of course as deep frozen produce is of such enormous importance these days much of the breeding is directed towards varieties suitable for this market.

But eventually there is, as the modern jargon has it, some "spin off" for the amateur, and one of this year's tit bits has come to us in retail packets is Celtic cabbage. This was bred at the Scottish Horticultural Research Institute. It is a splendid cabbage. It produces a heavy yield of solid round cabbages of an attractive medium green colour, with a very short internal stem. Its leaves inside are densely packed. It may be sown in mid-April to mature from September to November, or in mid-May to mature from November to February. Seeds are stocked by the main retail merchants, and I do suggest you grow it for an autumn or winter crop.

Now to something quite different. Are you contemplating moving house? Or have you done just that in the past year or two? If so, I think it would pay you to invest in Technical Bulletin No. 35 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and

Food, entitled *The Agricultural Climate of England and Wales*, by L. P. Smith (£2.40 from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, or through any bookseller).

New please do not be put off by the word "agricultural". This bulletin was primarily produced to help farmers, but climate affects us all—farmers, horticultural growers and gardeners. You may be moving house because you have no option—you have to go where your job is and put up with the climate. Or you may have already moved for one reason or another and you have to come to terms with the local climate. But maybe you are going to move, retire perhaps, or find a smaller place now that the children have grown up and gone away.

Anyway, if you have moved to a new environment and you take your gardening seriously it is extremely useful to have some elementary information about the climate. Possibly the most valuable bit of information is the length of the growing season. This can vary from 200 days in the north-east of England to 322 days in south western Cornwall. For the purposes of this survey England and Wales were divided into 50 climatic areas, and for each area certain information about the weather is given. The growing season I have already mentioned, and this heads the list of "areal averages". Next come potential transpiration,

the mean date of the last spring frost, irrigation need, average monthly rainfall, the average number of hours of sunshine a day, the day length for each month, also the average air and soil temperatures for each month.

Curiously, I have several requests for information about how to get rid of winter heliothrips, *Pentatomidae*, frigate flies, *Phoridae*, and a very invasive plant, deep rooted and difficult to eradicate once it has taken hold. It has large leaves, and white flowers in winter which have a powerful scent reminiscent of vanilla.

Because it spreads so rapidly it can become a great nuisance in a garden, and should only be planted in semi wild areas where it can do no harm. It is given the serious player for creating a world of his own, a world with its own rules and conventions which is so far removed from the workaday world that the wooden pieces which the chessplayer expresses his ideas seem endowed with more life than the figures in Shakespeare's dream world.

It is indeed quite remarkable how the chess enthusiast is insulated and cut off from the realities and the rigours of everyday life. Hence the reason for the popularity of chess in war time, in prisons and in psychiatric hospitals and in every place where the harshness of reality is not to be borne. H. G. Wells put it in another way when he pointed out that if you wanted to destroy a promising young politician all you had to do was to teach him how to play chess properly. The emphasis is on the word properly. The weaker the player the less the protection he has against what is going on in the outside world.

Hence, oddly enough, the sanity of this unreal world. The players are dreaming a healthy, balm-giving dream from which if woken they try to sleep again. Down here at Hastings one gets the impression that neither revolutions nor earthquakes would prevent the natural sequence of rounds from taking place. Ask a tournament competitor what day it is and the chances are he will give you a blank stare, but you may be sure that he will know what round it is.

For the chess player this may be the year of the snake, but for the chess player this is the year of the Candidates' matches, the year when eight of the world's leading players are meeting each other to decide who will challenge the world champion, Anatoly Karpov, for his title in 1978. Britain may or may not be self-sufficient in oil by the end of that year; but, writing and thinking as a chess player, my chief interest in the oil area in that year will be to see how our team does in February, since it is in the capital of chess that the Olympiad may well take place.

Nor do I exaggerate when I refer to the unconcern with which chess players regard revolutions. Once, many years ago, I was invited to play in a great international tournament at Havana. I believe this was

The spectator at a chess tournament, if he is not a chess player or a weak player, will be deceived by the expression on the faces of the contestants into believing that they are suffering the tortures of the damned and that something of vital importance is going on. What he fails to grasp is that under this mask of stern effort and concentration the players are enjoying themselves hugely.

Chess in fact possesses the distinction of being the most seriously frivolous of all indoor games and it is possibly for this reason that all the portraiture of the past, ranging from the monks of Mount Athos to George Bernard Shaw, have so roundly condemned it. They cannot forgive the serious player for creating a world of his own, a world with its own rules and conventions which is so far removed from the workaday world that the wooden pieces which the chessplayer expresses his ideas seem endowed with more life than the figures in Shakespeare's dream world.

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done in recognition of book I had written on Capablanca, one of the greatest chess players of all time and certainly the finest player I ever produced. Unfortunately I was unable to accept the invitation since I had a lot of work in hand in Europe about that time. The tournament was held in the town of the Bañista regime. A friend of mine, the Dutch master Ludovik Prins, played in the event and I asked him, on return to Europe, whether revolution had in any way affected the play in the tournament. Not at all, he said, I had heard some distant fir going on, but otherwise everything was perfectly normal.

I imagine that if chess been invented in the days of ancient Pompeii, the chess players would have continued to play while the world was falling in ashes round them. When and if the civil world comes to an end there some atomic blunder, I am sure it will not disrupt or interfere with, for example, participants in the noblest of Hastings Chess Congresses.

I seem to be in danger of writing a commercial for chess; but indeed chess played in the Ladbroke Grove here has been enjoyable, not least that I have met the tournament leader, Oleg Mikhalikov. Romanishin. Just look at beautiful game he won in seventh round against former world champion, Boris Smyslov. Romanishin. Bk Smyslov. Ruy Lopez, Steh Defence Deferred.

Clear waste of a tempo; I ter was 7... P-KK3. 8 P-K3, BxK. Nor is this a good idea. C rect was 8... B-R4; 9 P-B-K2. 9 Qx2 P-KK3. Decidedly, Smyslov is our form in the game; and its ect the text-move and its ect he should play 9... K-K10. K-K2, P-KK3. The in sion of the moves makes all difference between a lost a tenable game.

After 10... P-P; Rom ishkin had intended playing P-K5. Or if 10... P-QK 11. KxP, P-KK; 12. BxP, lowed by P-Q5. 13 P-P, CxP. Rather better here is 11 P-P. 12 P-Q5, B-K2. 13 P-Q5, B-K2. 14 Q-RQ1. Threatening P-B5 but perh the pawn move was better once. 15 P-Q5, B-K2. 16 P-Q5, B-K2. 17 P-Q5, B-K2. 18 P-Q5, B-K2. 19 P-Q5, B-K2. 20 P-Q5, B-K2. 21 P-Q5, B-K2. 22 P-Q5, B-K2. 23 P-Q5, B-K2. 24 P-Q5, B-K2. 25 P-Q5, B-K2. 26 P-Q5, B-K2. 27 P-Q5, B-K2. 28 P-Q5, B-K2. 29 P-Q5, B-K2. 30 P-Q5, B-K2. 31 P-Q5, B-K2. 32 P-Q5, B-K2. 33 P-Q5, B-K2. 34 P-Q5, B-K2. 35 P-Q5, B-K2. 36 P-Q5, B-K2. 37 P-Q5, B-K2. 38 P-Q5, B-K2. 39 P-Q5, B-K2. 40 P-Q5, B-K2. 41 P-Q5, B-K2. 42 P-Q5, B-K2. 43 P-Q5, B-K2. 44 P-Q5, B-K2. 45 P-Q5, B-K2. 46 P-Q5, B-K2. 47 P-Q5, B-K2. 48 P-Q5, B-K2. 49 P-Q5, B-K2. 50 P-Q5, B-K2. 51 P-Q5, B-K2. 52 P-Q5, B-K2. 53 P-Q5, B-K2. 54 P-Q5, B-K2. 55 P-Q5, B-K2. 56 P-Q5, B-K2. 57 P-Q5, B-K2. 58 P-Q5, B-K2. 59 P-Q5, B-K2. 60 P-Q5, B-K2. 61 P-Q5, B-K2. 62 P-Q5, B-K2. 63 P-Q5, B-K2. 64 P-Q5, B-K2. 65 P-Q5, B-K2. 66 P-Q5, B-K2. 67 P-Q5, B-K2. 68 P-Q5, B-K2. 69 P-Q5, B-K2. 70 P-Q5, B-K2. 71 P-Q5, B-K2. 72 P-Q5, B-K2. 73 P-Q5, B-K2. 74 P-Q5, B-K2. 75 P-Q5, B-K2. 76 P-Q5, B-K2. 77 P-Q5, B-K2. 78 P-Q5, B-K2. 79 P-Q5, B-K2. 80 P-Q5, B-K2. 81 P-Q5, B-K2. 82 P-Q5, B-K2. 83 P-Q5, B-K2. 84 P-Q5, B-K2. 85 P-Q5, B-K2. 86 P-Q5, B-K2. 87 P-Q5, B-K2. 88 P-Q5, B-K2. 89 P-Q5, B-K2. 90 P-Q5, B-K2. 91 P-Q5, B-K2. 92 P-Q5, B-K2. 93 P-Q5, B-K2. 94 P-Q5, B-K2. 95 P-Q5, B-K2. 96 P-Q5, B-K2. 97 P-Q5, B-K2. 98 P-Q5, B-K2. 99 P-Q5, B-K2. 100 P-Q5, B-K2. 101 P-Q5, B-K2. 102 P-Q5, B-K2. 103 P-Q5, B-K2. 104 P-Q5, B-K2. 105 P-Q5, B-K2. 106 P-Q5, B-K2. 107 P-Q5, B-K2. 108 P-Q5, B-K2. 109 P-Q5, B-K2. 110 P-Q5, B-K2. 111 P-Q5, B-K2. 112 P-Q5, B-K2. 113 P-Q5, B-K2. 114 P-Q5, B-K2. 115 P-Q5, B-K2. 116 P-Q5, B-K2. 117 P-Q5, B-K2. 118 P-Q5, B-K2. 119 P-Q5, B-K2. 120 P-Q5, B-K2. 121 P-Q5, B-K2. 122 P-Q5, B-K2. 123 P-Q5, B-K2. 124 P-Q5, B-K2. 125 P-Q5, B-K2. 126 P-Q5, B-K2. 127 P-Q5, B-K2. 128 P-Q5, B-K2. 129 P-Q5, B-K2. 130 P-Q5, B-K2. 131 P-Q5, B-K2. 132 P-Q5, B-K2. 133 P-Q5, B-K2. 134 P-Q5, B-K2. 135 P-Q5, B-K2. 136 P-Q5, B-K2. 137 P-Q5, B-K2. 138 P-Q5, B-K2. 139 P-Q5, B-K2. 140 P-Q5, B-K2. 141 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George Hutchinson

Urgent memo to Mr Crosland: root out these spies living in London

As Foreign Secretary in Mr Heath's Government, Sir Alec Douglas-Home dismissed 105 Soviet "diplomats" from London in September, 1971. He took them to be nothing but spies or active subversionists and felt that they were no longer acceptable in a free society. How right he was.

Of course there was an outcry in Moscow, where the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary were both denounced for illiberalism and high-handedness, such is the Russian hypocrisy of the Russian regime, perhaps the ghastliest tyranny known to history. In Britain and elsewhere in the West Mr Heath and Sir Alec received their proper due of public support and approbation.

It is time, surely, for the present Foreign Secretary, Mr Anthony Crosland, to emulate Sir Alec with Mr Callaghan's concurrence and endorsement. Again, there are over many communist saboteurs masquerading as diplomats in London. Not all of them are in the Soviet Embassy. Some belong to other missions, not least that of Czechoslovakia, which is a hideous monumental establishment

in Kensington Palace Gardens and alongside Baywater Road. If ever an embassy building betrayed the heavy oppressive character of the incumbent authority, this is it.

To say that London is overrun with Soviet spies would be an exaggeration (or so I hope), to suggest that they are over-zealous is not over-zealous? You may think that even one spy is one too many. But remember that spies are endemic to capital cities: after all, we have our own agents in Moscow—and they are rather good, I believe. So it has been all through history. The spy is a permanent fixture—in every society. While we can hardly hope to eliminate them on our own territory we could, however, reduce their numbers, as Sir Alec demonstrated.

One of Mr Crosland's immediate duties should be to examine the complements of the various Iron Curtain embassies in London, to ask himself—or rather to find out—what all their members do, and to rid us of some of these swollen cohorts. The saboteurs are not only present in themselves—in their own right, so to speak; they have their direct accom-

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plishes, some of whom, sad to say, are British subjects, while others can only be called dupes. All are dangerous.

There can be no extravagance in saying that the United Kingdom and its institutions are being undermined and the internal causes have external—alleged—origins. These subversive influences are to be found not only among the Marxists of the Labour Party in Parliament and in the constituencies but in Whitehall. Do you suppose that Burgess, Maclean, Philby and Blake were alone in their treachery? Of

course not. Some of them survive, enjoying their indexed public pensions (and no doubt a trouble-free conscience), while others have died. Their successors are present in Whitehall, and we should never forget that—especially in the sphere of home, rather than foreign, affairs. That is where the damage lies nowadays: in the field of domestic policy.

Meanwhile there can be little doubt that agents of the KGB—the Soviet Committee of State Security—have been interesting themselves, and interesting themselves beyond toleration, in the lives and affairs of three British citizens of standing who are prominent critics of communism: Mr Robert Moss, Mr Brian Crozier and Mr Ian Hamilton.

Mr Moss, the author of *Chile's Marxist Experience*, is the director of the National Association for Freedom, of which Lord De Lisle and Dudley, VC, is chairman. Mr Crozier (a member of the council of the National Association), is the director of the Institute for the Study of Conflict, with which Mr Hamilton, a former editor of *The Spectator*, is also associated—as is Professor Leonard Schapiro, Professor Max Beloff and that great authority on counter-insurgency, Sir Robert Thompson.

Committed as it is to exposing the activities and presence of the KGB throughout the western world, the Institute is a natural target for the attention of those who are engaged in the struggle of repression. It suffered a massive theft of documents from its offices in London in 1975, when no less than 25 files were stolen. Worse was to follow last summer, when Mr Hamilton's house was broken into and then set on fire. These were no "ordinary" crimes, acts of burglary, arson and intimidation.

But there is more to it than this—much more. For one thing, we now have the National Union of Students complaining about the activities of foreign intelligence services in our own universities—including, needless to say, the KGB. The NUS—understandably affronted—is to conduct an investigation. As the president, Mr Charles Clarke, was saying last week: "We are not prepared to tolerate these activities. We believe many English universities have agents from various organizations operating within them." Others are thought to be the CIA, SAVAK (of Iran) and BOSS (of South Africa).

Three ministers hold special responsibilities in this field. The first is the Prime Minister himself. The others are the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. They ought surely to scrutinise themselves at once.

Times Newspapers Ltd, 1977

Moscow's grand hotel, 25 storeys high and untouched by Russian hands

A twenty-five storey crescent 80 metres tall will soon rise on Moscow's northern skyline, opposite the rocket-tipped shaft of the cosmonaut monument. The four-star luxury hotel, first of its class in the Soviet Union, is being built as part of preparations for the 1980 summer Olympics. Literally and figuratively new ground has been broken.

The entire project is foreign. The architects and managers are French, and the foundation is being laid by Yugoslavs. The only Russians within the building site perimeter are the dustmen and charwomen.

Apart from sand, gravel and cement practically everything is shipped by rail or lorry from France. All the fittings and fixtures, from doorknobs to bath-tubs and lifts will be of French or other western make. Plans provide for 1,821 rooms, including 53 two-room suites and six three-room suites with a total of 3,642 beds.

The three top floors will house several restaurants and bars, each restaurant with its separate kitchen and cuisine. French, Russian, Georgian, Armenian and central Asian as well as simply international. The total restaurant capacity will be 3,400. The ground floor, besides the lobby, will include a shopping concourse.

The crescent will be flanked at one end by a 1,000 seat conference hall with a simultaneous translation system, and multipurpose stage and retractable cinema screen. The entire operation is being handled by the French Société Etudes Financière et de Réalisation Immobilière, known for short as Sefti, on contract with Intourist, the Soviet state tourist agency. Sefti is directed by M Jean Claude Aron, with offices on the 49th floor of the Paris Tour Montparnasse, which Sefti also built and owns.

The estimated cost in foreign currency (exclusive of materials supplied by Soviet organizations under separate agreement) is 604 million francs, 20 per cent cash and 80 per cent credit, guaranteed by the French Government. About 10 per cent of the financing is by a consortium of private banks, the largest contributor being Credit Lyonnais.

The project was the outcome of long negotiations started in mid 1972. Since then Paris based American banker David Karr, one of the pioneer negotiators, has made close to a hundred trips to Moscow. At the outset there was talk of many different projects, including three or four hotels, one in Leningrad, another in Vladivostok. Blueprints for these were even prepared.

In 1974 a Franco-Soviet protocol of intent was signed, envisaging a 700 million franc contract before there was any decision as to how many hotels and where. Eventually, by May 1975, they settled for one luxury hotel in Moscow. The plans were accordingly prepared, and submitted in September to the Soviet side which approved them one month later.

Next came the choice of the location. The present site was finally agreed on and named over to Sefti on April 15, 1976. The construction equipment, virtually all of it French, including cranes, concrete mixers, bulldozers, even hand tools, had been shipped in the meantime.

The French managers, engineers, technicians and clerical staff and the Yugoslavs—some 240 employees plus a few wives and children—are housed in student hostels two kilometres away in the suburb

of Ostankino. At the corner site a cafeteria restaurant with French serves French and Yugoslav meals at nominal prices. The Yugoslav workers, Serbs, plus a few Croat Macedonians, are supplied Belgrade building organs known as Komgrad which awarded the contract in competitive bids. The workers have had pre-worked abroad, in Germany, France, and are well versed in French to ser interpreters.

All personnel have many exist visas and a home and back at special rates. An Intourist on the site arranges for the Soviet Union takes orders for tickets to the Olympic sports. This winter the Yugoslav to organize several teams.

The equipment, buildings and staff assembled by June 1, ground was broken. And will go ahead non-stop if the weather permits. Considerable complexities, things have fairly smoothly save for occasional hitches when delivery of materials were held; avoid delays a regular service is being brought by the French firm S

and the Soviet Soyuzveshtans. There is rivalry among drivers for fastest run from Paris to Moscow. The record so far, days flat, it was set by a loaded with French wine was so shaky that a truck kegs spilled open in the snow. Autumn has shaded winter early this year, frosty air crash-figures in yellow padded jigs about the concrete of the semi-circular canyon excavation, setting the frames for pouring the forced concrete foundation more weeks and the will start sprouting about snow.

The Yugoslav brigade to complete its part of it by this time next year, they will be phased out then, when 550 workers drawn from all the trades (a goodly portion may prove to Portuguese) will arrive on scene. And the superstars will begin to assume their place. To allow ample time for the "breaking in" of the new staff, the 1980 Olympic target for completion of the building, is April 15. On that date Sefti is supposed to pack up and turn lock, and the hotel will be ready, which will be exclusive charge of staffing and of the four star hotel.

In the initial stages of the construction, the French had a that they share in running the hotel, at least for a transit period, until local staff can be trained to take over. But Russians were adamant. Because of this some of the original sponsors bowed out. The arrangements with the Russian chefs, waiters, maids, hall porters, bell boys and other staff, for a year's training in France. Sefti is confident it will keep to the schedule the hotel will be ready on time. This is more than can be for another, even more, a tious project, the Moscow International Airport. It is scheduled to be read the end of this year, it is yet even a hole in the ground.

Edmund Stev

The orgy of greed that has put a blight on Oxford

"The erosion of Oxford is no accident. It is a disease of the times and is happening because the structures of our civilization and culture are being challenged, if not destroyed. Those of us who feel that in the past decade or so Oxford has declined from a place of enchantment into just another provincial city are inclined to wonder whether we are not merely victims of nostalgia. Mr James Stevens Curl, former chairman of the local city society and author of book just published has no such doubts.

Indeed in his view the rot set in at least a century ago. He is certainly no medieval purist and is a warm admirer of much that the Victorians built, particularly the leafy avenues and crescents of north Oxford. But, as he sees it, the hopes of the mid-nineteenth century, not to mention the legacy of the previous millennium, have been dissipated in an orgy of greed, tastelessness and obscenity that at prime object of conservationist demagoguery, the motor car.

His is a curious offering, in part little more than a guidebook in the Baedeker/Pevsner tradition which, as befits his position as an architect, pays tribute to some distinguished contemporary buildings as well as to the city's older glories. But every now and then he seems no longer able to contain his rage. Sober exposition and criticism gives way to outbursts of unbridled scorn.

The Speedwell Street telephone exchange, for example, is "among the ugliest buildings in Britain." It displays such a total lack of feeling for the scale of Oxford, as well as stark

lack of sensibility in itself that one despairs for the future environment." Or again, "between the (Covley) works and Headington is a landscape from the world of concentration camps and inhumanity. The fact that the gentle, charming surroundings of a national treasure should be maltreated in this way is nothing short of a disgrace."

Yet on the whole he succeeds in making his point which is that cities like Oxford—or, for that matter, Cambridge, Worcester, Hereford, Exeter, Winchester and Edinburgh—are endangered not by comprehensive redevelopment but by carelessness and insensitivity. That is the erosion of which he writes, and even the best modern architecture cannot prevail against it.

Who then is to blame? For Mr Curl the chief villains are local politicians and the planning bureaucracies they have created. "The power held by local authorities is enormous... reflects the abysmal mediocrity of the power-groups and individuals who make decisions affecting our surroundings. In such an environment there can be no pleasure, no redeeming feature, no hope."

John Young
James Stevens Curl, *The Erosion of Oxford*, Oxford Illustrated Press, £2.55.

In our centenaries feature which appeared on January 5, we wrongly described Rubens as a Dutch painter. His native was Antwerp, now in Belgium.



A close-run thing: the finish of last week's Calcutta Derby.

Sportview

Go East young man for thrills of the Turf

The Calcutta Derby was run last Saturday at the Maidan, a racecourse as extensive as Ascot, with the stands looking much as they must have done there 50 years ago. In the days of empire, the arrival of the victory in a carriage procession yielded nothing to the royal meeting at Ascot in its pomp and splendour. That has gone now, but the Royal Calcutta Turf Club still prospers.

The finish of this year's Derby, run over a mile and a half, saw the two most fancied horses going neck and neck for the line, pursued at a distance by the rest. Raymond Guest, one of five English jockeys spending the winter in Calcutta, rode the winner, Topspin, and "Kipper Lynch" rode Sunbird, beaten by a neck.

Nor was that the end of the English connexion. Although all 11 runners were bred in India (it is against the law now to import a horse to race, though not the occasional stallion and brood mare) the winner's trainer, Shivendra Singh, learned his trade at Newmarket under Clive Brittain. Aged 24, Shivendra is in his first full season as a trainer, and even the partnership

between him and his jockey can be traced to Newmarket.

Raymond Guest, son of one of Doug Smith's workriders, was staying with his father in Newmarket while Shivendra Singh was there. With a riding weight of 8st 6lb, Raymond was already finding it hard and unrewarding work trying to establish himself as a professional jockey at home. "If they wanted anyone at that weight they could get Lester Piggett," he says wryly.

To make a better living, Guest looked farther afield. He tried Greece without liking it, then Scandinavia, which is where he first broke through. Madras followed, for four successive winters, and last November, through the New-

market grapevine, he joined Shivendra Singh.

In England the name of Raymond Guest is less well known than those of Lynch or Colin Williams or Eccleston or Turk, who were all in Saturday's field. This is not to say that as a travelling jockey with an honest reputation and an overseas Derby in his locker, Guest is much less well off than they are. Williams and Turk, for example, work for Calcutta stables in less good form than Guest's.

Since chancing it abroad, Guest has ridden enough winners in Denmark, Sweden and Norway to buy himself a house in Copenhagen. On Sundays he rides in Sweden, on Thursday nights in Norway;

when the racing is in Malmo he commutes by hydrofoil. With a total of about 35 winners during the Scandinavian season, many of them on horses bought from England, he has much more fun than if he were still struggling to stay in the saddle at home.

In Calcutta, his young trainer has found him a flat and he has a bearer to polish his buttons, a bearer to do his laundry, a bearer to clean his boots. He hopes for 20 winners in this his first season in Calcutta. Having landed the Derby, worth £7,000 to the winning owner, and therefore £700 to Guest, he may do even better.

What is, of course, denied to someone who settles for riding in Scandinavia and India, perhaps one day in Hongkong or Singapore, is the opportunity of partnering the world's best horses. Although the Norwegian colt Noble Dancer raised the status of Scandinavian racing by doing so well in last year's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, he was an exception. But for a young man like Raymond Guest, who is 25, riding abroad has its advantages.

John Woodcock

The war reporter, through the lens of the war photographer

This recently-discovered photograph of William Howard Russell, *The Times* correspondent who reported the American Civil War, the Indian Mutiny and the Crimean War, is an original portrait from the studio of Matthew Brady, the celebrated American Civil War photographer. It was probably taken just before the outbreak of that war in 1861.

Russell is wearing the uniform of a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. It is not known whether he was entitled to wear it, although he was Irish and had served as Deputy Lieutenant for the Tower Hamlets. Obviously it distinguished him from both the Union and Confederate forces.

The portrait was found in a large collection of Brady photographs, which was recently auctioned in Baltimore. Mr Lekow Bellamy, an archivist at the Library of Congress, said that they clearly came from the Brady studio in Washington because of the curtains and studio props. They are a few of the thousands of portraits the troops had taken of themselves before going off to fight.

Brady was by far the most distinguished photographer of his time, and as the clouds of war gathered he decided to record as much of the historic conflict as possible, at whatever the cost. By 1861 he had assembled a large team of photographers and moved from New York to Washington.

In between his hazardous expeditions to the front with

the Union armies, Brady took literally thousands of portraits. Generals and private soldiers waited hours in his studio for their war, and President Lincoln believed that Brady's pictures of him did much to establish his image in the nation.

Russell was a controversial figure before he went to the United States, and soon after his arrival in New York *Harper's Weekly* reported that he had expressed "his regret that his presence had too often been like that of the stormy petrel, the harbinger of trouble. He hoped that in the present case the experience of the past might be justified, and his pen employed to record the circumstances of a reconciliation so precious, rather than those of a fratricidal war so deplorable to the feelings and interests of humanity."

It was not to be. He was soon considered by the North to be too friendly to the South, and instrumental in influencing British public opinion in favour of the Confederacy. His report of the first battle of Bull Run, in which he described the fleeing Union troops as a rabble also angered the North.

Brady, however, was commended for photographing the rout of the New York Zouaves. Not that it did him much good at the time. He spent 100,000 dollars of his own money photographing the war, and died in bankruptcy and obscurity in 1896.

Michael Binyon



Part of

Matthew Brady's portrait

of William Russell

Togo pays a harsh price in the name of God and the people

The young soldier who in 1963 took part in the assassination of Sylvanus Olympio, the first President of Togo, is celebrating the tenth anniversary of the coup which brought him to power. General Gaissinbé Eyadéma, was one of a group of soldiers who, having served in the French army in Indo-China and Algeria, they were not to be redeployed on return to their own country. Their frustration led them to confront Olympio at his home and in a subsequent physical struggle, near by, it was Eyadéma who, according to all reliable sources, pulled a gun and fired the fatal shot.

The reins of government passed to Nicolas Grunitzky, leader of the Opposition, whose regime, torn by internecine strife, staggered on until January 13, 1967, when the army took over symbolically on the anniversary of the previous coup, suspending the constitution and all political activity. Eyadéma, by then a lieutenant-colonel in command of the army, lunged back but four months later assumed the presidency himself.

The overriding consideration was to set up an administration that would unite the country once and for all and eliminate the north-south jealousies that had hampered previous governments. At first there were doubts whether President Eyadéma was capable of filling this role, but he has gradually grown into it. He founded the current party, the Rassemblement du Peuple togolais in 1969, and has continued his rough rule with a handful of ministers ever since.

The RPT has unquestionably given the Togolese a sense of

national identity they have never had before. The party has been provided with a lavish conference centre, built like other prestige projects from the proceeds of the recent boom in phosphates, which has far surpassed cocoa and coffee as the nation's chief export earner.

Critics of the regime regard the President as a despot or benevolent dictator according to the shade of opinion. The price of lasting peace and stability is harsh. Amnesty International has reported the torturing of political detainees not as part of an interrogation process, but for the diversion of the torturers. Punishments include beating with steel whips or chains and electric shock treatment. Sometimes prisoners have been forced to beat each other. Other reliable sources allege that President Eyadéma himself has both witnessed and taken part in such punishment, some of which inevitably end in death. His power is apparently undisputed.

When I visited President Eyadéma just over a year ago, I was received in the sumptuous modern palace he has built for himself in Lomé, the capital. Guards lined the corridors leading to his office and when he rose to greet me, I was able to grip his outstretched hand only by leaning far across the massive desk. Even though we are both very tall, it was not difficult to understand why the broad mass of Eyadéma see in him the star quality they expect of their head of state.

Charming, relaxed, athletic-looking but with a most imposing physical presence, he nevertheless betrays the effects of his years of supreme power

and the nauseating stream of adulation expressed by the government-controlled press, radio, television, roadside soundings and ubiquitous portraits. He attributes all his actions to the will of the people or of God and is effectively above the law. Occasional promises to restore sovereignty to civilians are regularly followed by "spontaneous" demonstrations of support requesting General Eyadéma to stay in office. International conferences are occasions for wildly exuberant demonstrations of loyalty to the President, by thousands of youthful animators, uniformed political dancers who gratefully African rhythms and chant more adulatory slogans. The experience is both exciting and disturbing, for the Nazi salute of the dancers reflects inescapably the Nuremberg rallies of the Third Reich.

By far the oldest and most intractable problem abroad is the case of former western Togo. The present republic, an incongruous finger of land, less than 40 miles wide at the sea and reaching 370 miles northwards, between Ghana to the west and Benin to the east, is roughly the eastern two-thirds of the old German protectorate of Togoland. At the end of the First World War Togoland was divided into two mandated territories, Britain taking the western portion and France the eastern.

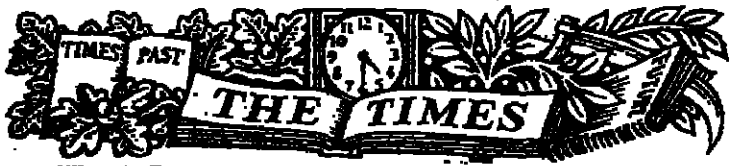
In 1956, when Gold Coast was to become the independent state of Ghana, the people of western Togo voted in a referendum for integration into Ghana. The exiled National Liberation Movement of Western Togoland based in Kpalimé Togo, has been trying for years to reverse this deci-

sion without success. argument is that, had it known at the time that Fr occupied Togo was to be independent too, the would have gone the other way. In any case, the poor the south, predominantly had wished all along for Togo where most of kin are living, and their a tions should have been all for.

The movement claims punitive measures have been taken by the Ghanians to press sympathy for the as well as contacts bet peoples divided by the tier. President Eyadéma, wishing to disturb his relations with his much st neighbour, has been i tant to bring the question to the fore. Because the dis area contains valuable c and cocoa plantations, would affect the Volta hydro-electric scheme Ghana have been accused of harbouring torial ambitions.

He is more interested in noting Togo's peace-ful role as a kind of Af Geneva and as a meeting for pan-African affairs. signing of the Lomé Co tution was an important st this direction, but the a decision to base the secret of ECOWAS, which he is to found with General G in Lagos, must be a bitter appointment. While any their steps towards Tog aggrandisement must and revival of the phosphate ket, life for the 90 per ce the two million Togolese live off the land coub much as it has for hundr years.

Geoffrey Wes



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THE CONDITIONS OF FREEDOM

The events which led to *The Times* not being published on Thursday can be quickly described. We received a copy of the magazine *Index on Censorship* which had a long article by David Astor, the proprietor of the *Observer*, an article which was very critical of the press and of the editorial and management of Fleet Street in connection with the printing unions. We prepared a report on the contents of Mr Astor's article and sent it to the paper in the ordinary way. Two printing unions objected to the report and one, the Machine Minders' Union, persisted in its objection after being told that they would have the right of reply in a subsequent issue of the *Times*. The *Times* normally gives to those who are criticized in its columns, that is not an unconditional right of reply, as it depends on the material submitted being suitable for the newspaper, but it is normally a full and complete one.

At first we were presented with a demand that part of the report should be cut out, and we would delay a further week before there should be additional material. The *Times* then expressed the chaplain's objection to the article, and Mr Astor was making. We were not prepared to cut the article and we were not prepared to add to the article, under trade union pressure. As a result the chaplain refused to print the article. This was not action taken by the NGA as a union, and the union officials advised a chapel to work normally.

It is perhaps best to pass over the replies that the Prime Minister gave on the matter when questioned by Mrs Thatcher. They certainly provide a basis of doctrine for dealing with this sort of situation, and present the Prime Minister's reluctance to accept any criticism of trade union action in any circumstances. We naturally are Mrs Thatcher's view that this is a vital one.

The editorial independence of a press exists or survives in about one fifth of the nations of the world, but is essential to democracy, unless

the press has freedom of speech the public does not have freedom of speech or information. Those who wish to maintain the freedom of a nation must stand behind the editorial freedom of the press, even though they know that it will sometimes be abused and often be wrong in its judgments. Those in the press who want to maintain its freedom must also try to raise the standard of its news reporting, its sense of responsibility, its willingness to report all sides and its essential fairness. Only a fair press will retain the public confidence that is needed by a free press.

In establishing the editorial freedom of *The Times* we have had in our history to deal with three major influences. Early in the nineteenth century we established our freedom from government and government subsidies; at about the same time we established our freedom from advertisers who in the eighteenth century press were able to insert paid puffs recommending their plays or their pills as though such puffs were an independent editorial opinion.

After our experience of Lord Northcliffe, in which *The Times* staff had a long struggle to resist the very wilful political control of their proprietor, independence from proprietorial direction was agreed in the letter to Lord Astor of Hever which was written by Geoffrey Dawson on his resignation. That was confirmed at the time of the sale of the majority interest to the Thomson family, and editorial independence has been a consistent principle of both Astor and Thomson ownership. *The Times* has had different relationships with different governments, with a sceptical scrutiny being the normal and perhaps the wisest attitude. Yet we are certainly not enemies of governments as such. Our very different relationships with our advertisers and with our proprietors are obviously important and friendly ones. Both are essential to the wellbeing and indeed to the continuance of the newspaper. The principle of editorial independence is therefore one of independence and not of hostility.

This too is the friendly relationship that we seek to have with all the trade unions that operate in the paper. The work of their members is obviously essential to the wellbeing of *The Times*; when the relationship with them is at its best the business of *The Times* goes forward most satisfactorily. Yet we are determined to be independent of them, as of government or advertisers or proprietors, in preserving the freedom of the editorial process. Independence is as essential to the working of the editorial process as it is to the working of the judiciary, and it can only be preserved by the same absolute standards.

In modern society the power of trade unions is very great. If newspapers admit the right of trade unions to alter copy, either by addition or subtraction, then the range of such interference, or of the inhibitions which might arise from the possibility of such interference, can be very wide. This will not only arise in trade union matters. In all those political questions on which people feel passionately including apartheid and race relations, there will also be a temptation for trade unions to use their power in such a way as to inhibit free reporting and free comment. Once admit the principle that pressure can alter editorial decisions and you invite further pressure.

It is for these reasons that we decided that we should print our report of Mr Astor's article in exactly its original form, without addition or subtraction, that we would continue that stand until the article had been printed, and that we would take the same attitude towards the whole of the editorial process. This is not to say that the editorial process itself should not be an open one. Anybody, a citizen, a reader, a member of the editorial staff, a trade union official, an ambassador, a private soldier, a public figure, can come to *The Times* and by way of letter or by word of mouth put his views or information to us, but he must not come on a claim of power. The editorial process entirely welcomes outside opinion and totally rejects outside pressure.

Censorship by industrial action

From Mr K. P. Smith

Sir, Recently workers on national newspapers were presented with a booklet *Programme for Action*. It set out proposals for the introduction of new working arrangements and technology into the Fleet Street and Manchester newspaper offices. On Wednesday night (January 12) a protest was made over an article which was to appear on page one of *The Times*, subtitled "Featherbedded tactics in Fleet Street condemned". The article was not complete but an edited version from a magazine *Index of Censorship*. It is strange that even in an edited version references to sabotage in machine rooms with all its undertones were left in. We do not wish to be associated with industrial sabotage.

This is not the time for an obscure personality who has recently lost his editorship to blame everyone but himself. Whatever action we, the printers, took over the accuracy of the article or our request for a disclaimer over the charge of sabotage, the media would make us wrong; the article was written in this way. Every dispute has two points of view and it is significant that all reporting on the strike, including radio and television, have taken the point of view and failed to find out the other side of the coin.

Was someone trying to prove a point? K. P. SMITH, Feather of the Chapel, for and on behalf of *The Times* NGA Machine Managers Chapel.

From the Director of Aims for Freedom and Enterprise

Sir, The censorship dispute on *The Times* and *The Guardian*, and the Union of Post Office Workers' plans to interfere with communications to South Africa illustrate the point that this organization has been making for several years—that major threats exist in this country to the freedom of the press, radio and television and mass communications generally.

We speak from bitter experience; I suppose no organization has had so much experience of overt and concealed censorship. In the 1960s we were one of the first customers to use the Post Office service to deliver unaddressed mail. This immediately caused a strike on the grounds that the postmen did not like our literature, and the Conservative Government suspended the service. In 1974, as a result of pressure by unions, a number of newspapers refused to carry our advertising which said that there was a threat from the extremists in the trade

unions. Our 1974 pamphlet *Don't Stress the Dangers* stressed the dangers.

In 1974 we pointed out that the House of Lords' debate on press freedom was censored for a week. All other House of Lords' *Hansards* appeared during that period, but this one was held over, allegedly according to an industrial dispute. We reject this explanation.

There have, of course, been many cases of the contents of newspapers being affected by trade union pressure; the public are not aware of some of these, though courageous papers like *Private Eye* have at times reported them.

So far radio and television have not been exposed to such pressures, although there have been isolated instances, such as the extraordinary refusal to allow a television camera team to make a film in South Africa on Baden Powell's 50th birthday.

The grave dangers are exacerbated by the new approach of the Union of Post Office Workers, whose power is now being used to interfere in industrial disputes and to isolate particular countries of whom they dislike. South Africa, for example, but I regard the threat to the free world as being much greater from the Soviet Union and China. Nevertheless, I would reject Post Office workers having the right to determine whether I should be able to communicate with Communist countries.

What can be done? First, an all party committee needs to be set up to examine the facts—the threats to communication and from whom they come. Second, we must absolutely reject the syndicalist idea that union members have a right to determine the content of books, films, newspapers and television and radio programmes. Finally, the Union of Post Office Workers continues with its present approach, the monopoly powers must be taken away from the Post Office so that we have free mails in this country.

Despatched by air to the Editor, MICHAEL IVENS, 5 Plough Lane, Fetter Lane, EC4.

From Mr R. K. Morland, Sir, Has the Union of Post Office Workers ever taken politically motivated action against the Soviet Union or its satellites?

If not, and it has no plans to do so, can we assume that the totalitarian governments of these countries have the Union's seal of approval? Yours faithfully, ROBERT MORLAND, 21 Church Street, Hampton, Middlesex.

Doctors and unions

From the President of the Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association

Sir, The Joint Working Party on the Ethical Responsibilities of Doctors practising in the NHS deserves credit for identifying a fundamental problem confronting doctors with increasing starkness since 1948. Also, their conclusions are idealistic rather than practical and there is some danger in suggesting that the profession share its ethical responsibilities to patients with the state, albeit in the sphere of "macro-ethics" to the population in general.

Government, they say, has a special responsibility not to create ethical conflicts for doctors by pursuing political ends. But governments always do pursue political ends, and the Health Services Act, which was an overtly political measure that will not improve the health care of anyone in Great Britain.

And the profession, the working party says, should not create ethical conflicts

purely to further the advantage of its own members. Of course it has, but how otherwise than by legitimate trade union activities can the medical profession protect its collective interests today when every other group of employees seeks to grab what it can by these very means?

In a responsible society with a responsible government, such conflicts need never arise. But in our country today, where Government supports only the claims made by organized trade unions, the only way in which professional men and women can ensure that their services will remain available to the public is by having powerful trade unions to press their interests as well as other bodies to watch over their ethics. Adding yet another layer of consultative machinery will solve nothing.

Yours etc, J. F. RICKARDS, President, Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association, The Old Court House, London Road, Ascot, Berkshire.

Cannabis leaves

From Mr D. A. Aitken

Sir, While the Court of Appeal judgment in *R. v. Goodchild* (January 13) comes as no surprise to those of us who have always advocated this interpretation of the law, it raises a number of issues which require resolution.

The ruling that the leaves of the cannabis plant are not "cannabis" (a Class B drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971) is of little value so long as it remains undecided whether or not they constitute (as suggested by the prosecution) a "preparation or product containing cannabinoid derivatives"—a Class A drug under the same Act. The common sense answer to this question is that to place cannabis leaves on the same level as heroin is to make nonsense of the whole scheme of classification which underlies the Act.

The alternative is to hold that cannabis leaves are not controlled under the Act at all. It does not seem to us that this raises any insuperable difficulties. Cannabis leaves are specifically excluded from the scheme of international control under the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1953 and were not controlled by any of the earlier British legislation; as Lord Widdowham, speaking for the Conservative Govern-

ment, said to the House of Lords on February 9, 1971, "the plant cannabis is not a controlled drug".

It is therefore particularly to be hoped that the Home Office and the Director of Public Prosecutions will neither attempt to bring further prosecutions under Class A (with very dubious chances of success) nor bring unduly hasty amending legislation before Parliament.

A time when the decriminalization of cannabis use is increasingly being adopted in many jurisdictions (including eight states of the United States at the latest count) would be particularly inappropriate for the introduction by the United Kingdom of yet more stringent controls, far beyond those required by our international obligations, especially if, as seems only too likely, no evidence of the objective need for such measures is to be produced.

Cannabis leaves are undoubtedly the weakest of the cannabis drugs; the opportunity now presents itself for an invaluable social experiment in the toleration of what is, after all, the mildest intoxicant known to man.

Yours faithfully, D. A. AITKEN, for Release, 1 Elgin Avenue, W9, January 13.

Farmers' incomes

From the Editor of the British Farmer and Stockbreeder

Sir, I was dumfounded to read Hugh Clayton's article on January 10 ambiguously headed "Statistics needed to disprove charges of profiteering against farmers", and lamenting the absence of "objective" information about farmers' incomes. He argued that an examination of the state of agriculture based on "official figures", university management surveys of profitability, figures issued by companies which supply materials to farmers, would at least make available information on which sensible judgments could be based.

True, but there is no industry which is more fully and openly controlled than agriculture. All the requirements Mr Clayton lists have long since been met. Information about farm incomes based upon government surveys, the NFU's 30-year-old farm accounts scheme, based on accountants' returns, information from provincial agricultural econ-

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What these figures, and the latest White Paper on the state of agriculture, show is that while some producers of some commodities potently are an outstanding example of what have done very well through a combination of the weather and the law of supply and demand, the rewards of risk-taking, physical work and management expertise is not yet adequate, taking one year with another, to enable farmers to invest in expansion, help to improve the *Food from our resources* White Paper, and save all further draughts on our balance of payments.

Yours sincerely, MONTAGUE KEEN, British Farmer and Stockbreeder Limited, Surrey House, 1 Threlkley Way, Sutton, Surrey.

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OBITUARY

THE EARL OF AVON

A brilliant foreign secretary whose premiership ended prematurely

the Earl of Avon, KG, PC, who as Sir Anthony Eden Prime Minister from April 1955 to January 1957 died yesterday at the age of 79.

His long, distinguished, and eminently successful career in public life was marked by a mixture of statesmanship and political astuteness. It was a career in which he was regarded as a man of unusual trust and respect for his opponents in Parliament. In the Middle East in 1956 and November, 1956, he was the most bitter political adversary of recent years. His health was poor, but he survived it. He resigned office a very young man, but he was a man of great energy and political acumen. The noise of the political machine and the pressure of the high office he had rendered him to the nation and to the cause of peace. He was a man who had rendered him to the nation and to the cause of peace.

A young man, first in the League of Nations in 1919, and then from December 1935, as Foreign Secretary, he was a man of great energy and political acumen. He was a man who had rendered him to the nation and to the cause of peace. He was a man who had rendered him to the nation and to the cause of peace.

During the war, he was a man of great energy and political acumen. He was a man who had rendered him to the nation and to the cause of peace. He was a man who had rendered him to the nation and to the cause of peace.

After 1945, his practice of conciliatory opposition to ensure the continuity of British policy in the third term at the Foreign Office his diplomatic skills and flair were devoted to the full. His *Annus Mirabilis* was 1954. The year of the solution of the Trieste problem, the end of the Indo-China, and the consolidation of western European peace after its disruption had threatened by the French attack on the European Community. In these years, his diplomatic skills and flair were devoted to the full.

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When the National Government came into power in 1931, Eden was made Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs. In 1932 he first attended the Assembly of the League of Nations as a British delegate, and began the period of service and championship of the League which made his reputation in Britain.

On January 1, 1934, he was promoted to be Lord Privy Seal, continuing to devote himself primarily to the League and disarmament. It was as Lord Privy Seal that he was instrumental in the new British disarmament programme. A year later, he visited Paris, Berlin, and Rome. This European journey gave Eden a chance to meet the two dictators who were to be his adversaries for the next 10 years.

Eden, new to power, was relatively subdued. A year later, when Eden saw him in company with John Simon, the Foreign Secretary, he was fulminating against the Russian bogey. Eden moved on to Moscow alone making the first call by a British Minister since the Revolution. In June, 1935, Baldwin took over from MacDonald and a reluctant Eden continued his duties under a new chief Sir Samuel Hoare, though the title of his office was changed to Minister for League of Nations Affairs, and he was, at the age of 37, given a seat in the Cabinet. This uncomfortable duplication, which amounted to having two Ministers in the same Government responsible for foreign affairs, was much criticised at the time but was not destined to last long.

The Abyssinian crisis was blowing up, and one of Eden's first tasks in his new post was to pay another visit to Rome in order to buy off Mussolini by offering him territorial concessions in Abyssinia, which in its turn was to be compensated by cession of the port of Zeila in British Somaliland. Eden himself was not enthusiastic about the plan, and Mussolini was not particularly keen. Neither this meeting nor the efforts of the League Council, in which Eden took a prominent part, slowed up preparations for the war on which Mussolini had long before decided. When the bombs began dropping on Abyssinia, the League, but there were few in the British or French governments who, like Eden, were prepared to accept their full implication. The fiasco of the Hoare-Laval Pact followed.

Eden's task was greatly complicated because he was a young man in an old Cabinet, meeting a man whose members lacked his knowledge, persistence, and courage. Baldwin, who spoke little in Cabinet or outside on international topics, gave him broad support. With Neville Chamberlain, who was not a member of the Cabinet, Eden's relations were more complex.

The policy of appeasement, carried on largely by Chamberlain himself in collaboration with Eden, was a policy of appeasement. It was a policy of appeasement. It was a policy of appeasement.

When war broke in September, 1939, Eden was recalled to the Government as Secretary of State for the Dominions, but without a seat in the Cabinet. This position was remedied when Churchill formed his coalition government in May, 1940, and Eden became not only Secretary of State for War but also, at first by tacit understanding and later with official recognition, the

acknowledged successor of Churchill should he disappear. The seven months Eden spent at the War Office were a critical time for his country and a satisfying time for Eden himself. The evacuation from Dunkirk, the reconstruction of the Army in England, the creation of the Home Guard, and the reinforcement of Middle East Command, were all fields where a wrong decision could have brought catastrophe. Eden was a powerful advocate for the generals—Bill, Brooke, Wavell—in whom he had confidence but whose abilities were, in Churchill's eyes, unproved. Churchill's desert victories in December, 1940, were a personal justification for Eden.

On succeeding Halifax as the Foreign Office, the first part of the world to claim his attention was the Balkans. Greece was successfully resisting Mussolini's invasion, but Hitler threatened to come to his ally's help. In the middle of February, 1941, Eden, accompanied by the CIGS Field-Marshal Sir John Dill, flew out to see what aid could be given Greece and whether or not Turkey and Yugoslavia could not be persuaded to form, with the backing of Britain, a united Balkan front against the Axis. The decision on how and when to intervene in Greece was one which Eden and Dill had to take on the spot. Like all decisions which lead to defeat it has been much criticised. Eden, however, remained convinced that it was right. To have left unaided another country covered by British guarantee would have been a base act. Moreover, though Turkey remained outside the battle, the Yugoslav coup d'état of March 27, which, on Eden's instructions, the British Ambassador in Belgrade (Sir Ronald Campbell) had been authorized to encourage, upset Hitler's timetable. The subsequent Balkan campaign delayed the attack on Russia by more than five weeks.

In December, Eden went to Moscow to resume acquaintance with Stalin, now a comrade in arms.

Responsibilities during the War

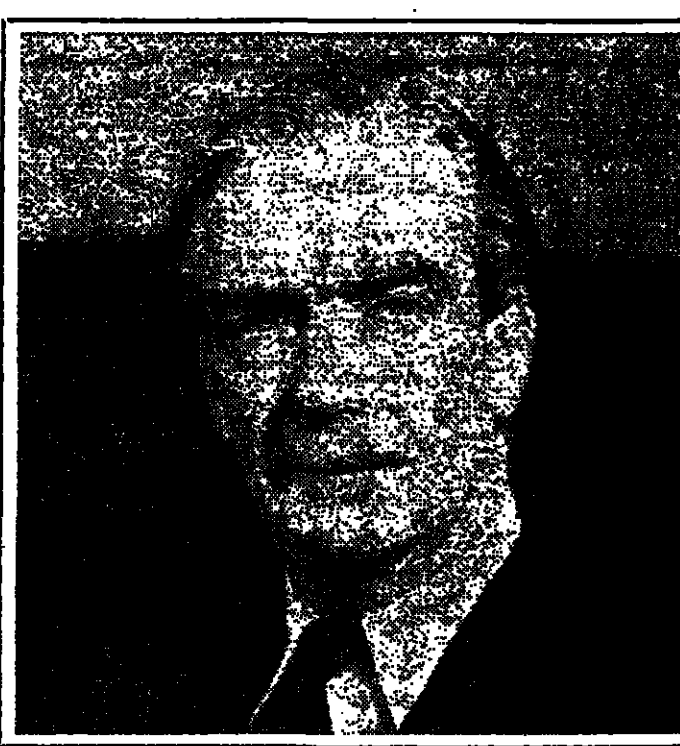
Among a host of running controversies two, in particular, lay heavy on him from beginning to end. These were, argument with the Russian Government over the Lend-Lease programme and the American Government over the French. Both involved Eden in frequent clashes with his own Prime Minister. For the Polish Government in exile, Eden was a man of great energy and political acumen. He was a man who had rendered him to the nation and to the cause of peace. He was a man who had rendered him to the nation and to the cause of peace.

Neither Churchill nor Roosevelt viewed de Gaulle in the same light as Eden to whom it fell on general occasions, over the Darlan affair, for example, and the recognition of the French Committee of National Liberation—to point out the dangers of underestimating de Gaulle's authority for the future role of France.

It was over France that relations between Eden and Churchill became most strained, and there were times when both even gloomily contemplated the possibility of rupture. These disputes never broke long, but the public which saw in Eden only the loyal lieutenant of a dominant leader, and it must be added, the public which had confined its reading to Churchill's own memoirs—necessarily ignored the hidden arguments.

Eden had been at Churchill's right hand through all the major wartime conferences—Tehran, Casablanca, Quebec, Cairo, Moscow, Washington, Yalta, Potsdam—as a visiting Moscow and Washington by himself. At Christmas, 1944, he accompanied Churchill to Athens in an attempt to contain the civil war in which British troops had been compelled to intervene, and after four days of intense negotiation all parties, except the communists, agreed to accept Archbishop Damaskinos as Regent and to submit the question of the return of the King to a vote. This settlement, bitterly attacked by the left wing of the Labour Party and by many Americans, was defended in the Commons by Eden in a speech showing more than his usual pugnacity.

By this time the war in Europe was clearly drawing to a close, and though Eden was obliged to take an increasingly pessimistic view of Russian intentions he had equally to plan the machinery of postwar co-operation. In May, 1945, he led the British delegation to San Francisco where final shape was to be given to the Charter of the United Nations. "Whether we like it or not," he told the assembled delegates, "we are now one another's neighbours." Either we must find the way to order our relations with justice, or we shall soon head for another world war. Our work here may represent the world's last chance.



Major John Spencer Churchill. She was a niece of the Prime Minister.

Another situation in which Eden made step-by-step consultation with the United States his guiding rule was the oil dispute with Iran. Hitherto, he felt, Mussadek had been able to play off the British and Americans against each other, exploiting the fears of the latter that, whatever his shortcomings might be, he was the last bulwark against communism. Eden advocated firmness, while probing around all the time for any opening that might lead to a new diplomatic initiative. As things turned out, it was due mainly to action on the spot by the Shah and the Americans and to his own folly that Mussadek fell from power in August, 1953. But subsequent efforts to pick up the pieces and get the oil flowing again also required much skill and patience.

The year 1953 brought an altered world. Eden's old friend, General Eisenhower, was installed in the White House, and in March Stalin died. Whatever these changes might mean Eden was, by a buffer of fate, unable to profit from them. For some time he had been suffering from inter-vening in the previous summer he had jaundice. That April his condition worsened. He underwent two operations, the first on April 9 and the second 10 days later, for chronic inflammation of the gall bladder which later exacerbated that condition. These gave no real improvement, and on the advice of his doctors he was flown to Boston where on June 7 Dr. Cline, who had made a lifetime study of this surgery, performed a third and successful operation. In all he was out of action for six months, not returning to work until October 5. While he was still absent, Churchill and Lord Salisbury held the fort for their sick superiors, and these were in full vigour again when, on December 2, they met with Eisenhower and Dulles in Bermuda to concert plans for a meeting with the Russians.

When the election in the autumn of 1951 returned Churchill and the Conservatives to power by a narrow majority, Eden again became Foreign Secretary and Deputy Prime Minister. It was a world still ruled by the old war, but conflict in Korea and Indo-China were unresolved, and Britain had her own special troubles in Iran, where relations had been broken off following Mussadek's nationalisation of the oil industry, and Egypt where a corrupt monarchy and its ineffectual servants, in a bid to recover popularity, had just denounced the Anglo-Egyptian treaty of 1936, which had been one of the more graceful achievements of Eden's first period of office.

His first journey, however, undertaken only a few days after assuming office, was to the sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. To the astonishment of those who had followed him through these gatherings he attended, and he listened with pained amazement to one of Vishinsky's tirades against the West. In his own deliberately muted reply, which had considerable effect, he called for a fresh start in international relations, by taking up limited problems, starting with the small ones and then gradually broadening the area of agreement. His next journey was to Moscow, where the project for a European Defence Community was running into difficulties. Eden was no more prepared than had been his Labour predecessors to take part in any sort of European Federation. His opposition in Paris, Robert Schuman, explained that he was unlikely to be able to get the French Assembly to approve the EDC unless it was accompanied by a firm guarantee from Britain. After Churchill and Eden had talked in Washington with President Truman and his Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, as well as with Eisenhower at NATO headquarters, it was agreed to give an Anglo-French undertaking against any threat "to the integrity or unity of the Community". He went to Paris in May, 1952, for the issue of this declaration and for the simultaneous signature of the EDC treaty and the contractual agreements whereby Germany regained control of her own affairs. The pattern of Eden's diplomacy was in this way illustrated—intimate association with America, close co-operation with France, and the reintegration of Germany within a precise European framework—all this, it was hoped, enabling the west to negotiate from strength a working agreement with Russia.

In August that year Eden, who had two years before obtained a divorce from his first wife on the grounds of desertion (she died in 1957), married Clarissa, daughter of the late

Mendès-France, who showed himself willing to grasp the nettle, and Eden, who displayed ingenuity and persistence throughout.

No sooner was this hurdle behind him than he had to face another. By the end of August the EDC was dead, killed by a vote in the French Assembly. Western policy, as it had evolved over the past three years, seemed to be in ruins, and the time ripe for that "agonising reappraisal" of American policy which Dulles had threatened the winter before if the French failed to ratify EDC. It fell to Eden to pick up the bits. He reached the conclusion that there was now no alternative to the entry of Germany into NATO, with safeguards, he thought, and the idea came to him as many other good ones have done in the past—could be based on the Brussels Treaty of 1948, which had been primarily designed to meet the same fear of German aggression which were responsible for France's new hesitations. Once the invention had been produced the next thing was to sell it. Speed was of the essence and leading up to the suggestion to Washington, but without waiting for an answer, he flew in quick succession to Brussels, Bonn and Rome, ending up in Paris, where serious objections were more likely to be met.

His five days' canvassing tour was entirely successful: America was favourably impressed by Eden's brilliant initiative and his results, and the outcome was the summit conference of the Big Four in September of a Nine Power Conference, attended by the Foreign Ministers of France, Germany, United States, Britain, Belgium, Italy, Canada, Holland, and Luxembourg, who had been elected chairman, was able to announce, to the immense surprise and gratification of those present, his Government's willingness to maintain on the mainland of Europe the effective strength of the United Kingdom forces currently stationed in Germany. The Commander in Europe—four divisions and a tactical air force—or whatever SAC EUR regarded as its equivalent, and undertook not to withdraw these forces against the wishes of the majority of the Brussels Treaty Powers subject only to the understanding that an acute overseas emergency might oblige withdrawal without prior consultation. Among the other points agreed was an undertaking by France, Britain, and the United States to end the occupation of Germany, the admission of Germany to NATO, and Germany's promise voluntarily to limit her production of arms.

The conference was acknowledged as a great personal success for Eden, the result of his vigorous initiative and skilful diplomacy. Further recognition was to come—on October 20 the Queen created him a Knight of the Garter. By the end of October the dispute, which had been poisoned by relations between Italy and Yugoslavia since the end of the war, had been settled. Eden's part in this, though effective, had been minor, but he necessarily played a leading part in the subsequent agreement, signed on October 19, whereby British troops were finally withdrawn from the Suez Canal area in exchange for a civilian base which could be reactivated in the event of war or the threat of war. This agreement, which was bitterly assailed by the "Suez group" in the Conservative party and by the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, but was welcomed by the mass of opinion in both countries, was a triumph for Eden, who had been able to secure such a result in the face of such opposition.

The long expected transfer of power took place in the new year. On April 6, 1955, Churchill resigned and Eden, who had been Prime Minister since 1951, was replaced by Sir Winston Churchill.

One agreement that was reached in Berlin was to hold a further conference at Geneva on Indo-China and Korea, where France was fighting a losing war against the communist Vietnamese. Eight years of hostility had drained her of money and manpower, and now the strong garrison at Dien Bien Phu was beleaguered. The Americans were contemplating massive air strikes from their carriers as a means of giving support to the French and preventing the overrunning of all south-east Asia by communism, which they foresaw as a consequence of a French collapse. Eden was alarmed both by the diagnosis and the proposed remedies. He feared the American intervention would lead to parallel action by the Chinese, and a world war thus in the making. The Geneva conference began on April 26 and dragged on until the end of July, when armistice agreements were signed for Laos and Cambodia as well as for Vietnam. The result was a compromise, both sides staying more or less put in their existing positions, and as such unpopular in many places, particularly in America. But it was the art of the possible, it was a successful compromise, credit for which should be shared between the new French Premier, Pierre

Postwar successes

January 4, 1954, was fixed as the time, and Berlin as the place, for the meeting. Molotov, Dulles, Eden, and Eisenhower were present. The meeting was a success. It was a success. It was a success.

reached, but in private discussion the two sides became more directly aware of their common abhorrence of war. At any rate, the atmosphere was genuinely cordial, and "the spirit of Geneva" was subsequently invoked, more as a form of incantation than policy whenever international tempers grew hot.

On the internal front Eden's touch as Prime Minister was less sure. He never managed to give the impression of understanding economics, though he spoke much of the dangers of inflation. In 1955 there were in effect three Budgets, the last of which, introduced by Mr Butler on October 26, relied on the familiar and unpopular restriction on expenditure such as rises in indirect taxation and a curb on loans to local authorities.

Eden and his Foreign Secretary, Mr Selwyn Lloyd, sailed to America on January 25, 1956, for talks with President Eisenhower and Mr Dulles. Eden was worried by the communists' beating of the anti-communist drum, for instance during the visit to India by Bulwer and Khushchay. Nor did he like the look of things in the Middle East, where Nasser's arms deal with Czechoslovakia had just been concluded. He hoped to see a common declaration of purpose by the two governments which would show the world that the West had its own message to give. In fact the talks, though friendly as usual, produced no striking results, and when they turned to the affairs of the Middle East, showed an increasing divergence of approach. Three months later he acted as host to the Russian leaders, Bulganin and Khrushchov, whom he had invited at the time of the Geneva summit conference. They stayed for 10 days, and in the end Eden was able to announce, to the immense surprise and gratification of those present, his Government's willingness to maintain on the mainland of Europe the effective strength of the United Kingdom forces currently stationed in Germany.

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Eden followed up the proposal which, for two years or more, had been so dear to Churchill, of a Heads of Government meeting with Russia, a "supreme effort to see whether more progress can be made with the main differences between east and west". The Russians proved willing, and the rendezvous was fixed for Geneva in July. Eisenhower, Bulganin, Eden, and Edgar Faure (who was at that time Premier of France) spent five days going over the familiar ground of European security and disarmament. No agreements were

back their rights with force. This Eden assumed, and his whole edifice came crashing to the ground when on September 12, Dulles announced that for their part the United States did "not intend to shoot our way through" the Canal. "It would be hard to imagine," wrote his memoirs, "to imagine a statement more likely to cause maximum allied disunity and disarray."

Though the case against Nasser was argued at the Security Council the British and French Governments were from this point forward increasingly concerned with military preparations. After the fighting was over there was much debate over the extent to which—if at all—Eden was aware of the secret consultations that had been going on between the French and the Israelis who, as the situation in the Middle East deteriorated and Nasser's build-up of arms progressed, had been planning a preventive war. The charge of collusion was denied by Eden and other Government spokesmen. Nevertheless M Pincus, who at that time was French Foreign Minister, subsequently stated that he had broached the question of collaboration with the Israelis to Eden on September 24, that Eden "showed a great deal of interest", and subsequently approved a written agreement by which Israel would attack in Sinai, the RAF would attack the Egyptian Air Force on the ground, and an Anglo-French ultimatum to both Israelis and Egyptians would call on them to withdraw from the Canal, which would be the scene of intervention by Anglo-French expeditionary force.

Whatever may be the unpublished British version of events, this in fact was the pattern which unfolded during the last days of October. Israel mobilized its forces for action, and her troops entered Egyptian territory on the evening of October 29. The same afternoon Eden informed the House of Commons of the ultimatum being delivered to both sides, and explained his Government's purpose as being to help the Egyptians to help to guarantee freedom of transit through the Canal by ships of all nations. The Labour Opposition, which immediately after Nasser's act of nationalization had been no less vocal for action than the Conservatives, had swung away from any endorsement of force, and now assailed the Government with a bitterness of feeling seldom seen in the Commons since the days of the Irish debates. On November 5 British and French paratroops were dropped on Port Said. At midnight on November 6 while they were still only half way to their objectives at Ismailia a ceasefire came into effect.

Eden was to claim many things for the Suez intervention—that it had prevented a war from spreading, that it had forced the United Nations to act, that it had exposed Russian plans in the Middle East, and that it reinforced peace. His critics countered that the Canal was blocked, the oil pipelines blown up, the Commonwealth on the brink of collapse, the mainstays of British influence in the Middle East destroyed, and the British and American governments barely on speaking terms. In spite of all this, Eden never faltered in his conviction that his policy had been right. "I thought and think that failure to act would have brought the worst of consequences," he wrote in his memoirs. "I think the world would have suffered less if Hitler had been resisted on the Rhine." He was confident the verdict of the future would bear him out. Whatever this may be, Suez, like Munich, has passed into the lore of historical pageant.

The strain of these weeks on Eden had been immense, but he appeared to have survived it, and on November 9 he gave a vigorous defence of his actions at the Lord Mayor's Banquet. But Suez had exacted a severe toll on his health. Though he hoped that a three week winter holiday in Jamaica would restore him to fitness his recurring abdominal symptoms continued to give cause for concern. Eventually on January 9 in the new year he tendered his resignation as Prime Minister. Shortly afterwards he resigned his seat for Warwick and Leamington, which constituency he had represented since he first entered the House of Commons, at the age of 26, in 1923. Thus ended his parliamentary career, which had lasted for 33 years, during 18 of which he had held high office.

From 1960 Eden began to publish his memoirs—*Full Circle: Facing the Dictators* and *The Reckoning* and other volumes appeared in the Times.

In the summer of 1961 an earldom was conferred upon Eden. It is customary for an earldom to be offered to a retiring Prime Minister but, for reasons of health, Eden had not been in the House of Commons in 1957. He is succeeded by his surviving son, Viscount Eden.

The Suez Crisis

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Stock Exchange Prices

Gilts in the spotlight

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, Jan 28: § Contango Day, Jan 31. Settlement Day, Feb 8

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
"Afore ye go"

[illegible]

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Personal
investment and
finance,
pages 20 and 21

Record £1,250m ap stock aims to stabilize gilts yield

A further signal was given by the Government yesterday that it is anxious to maintain a steady pace in bringing down interest rates when it announces a record £1,250m offer of long-dated Government stock slightly above the rates of interest obtainable in the gilt market just ahead of the announcement.

The announcement of the £1,250m stock came shortly after the Bank of England had indicated that its minimum lending rate will remain unchanged for time being at 14 per cent.

That MLR would be left unchanged for the moment had already been clearly signalled by the Bank through the way which it had provided assistance to the discount market in the week. But it is still widely expected that there will be a further cut in MLR, which has been coming in quarter point drops since it was raised to a crisis level of 15 per cent early in 1976.

The market also took the fact that the coupon on the new Treasury stock had been cut to 1 per cent as a clear sign of a trend to come over the next few months. The last long-dated stock, which was exhausted at the end of last week, carried a 1 per cent coupon and had been offered on a gross redemption yield of 15.4 per cent.

In the short term, however, a new stock—the largest gilt tranche of Government stock ever offered—is clearly signed to peg yields at the

longer end of the market. At the issue price of 96 per cent the gross redemption yield works out at 14.38 per cent.

After last year's experience, when the Government had to raise interest rates significantly to enable it to continue its heavy funding programme, the Government now appears to be aiming at a controlled reduction in yields to enable it to maintain a smooth pattern of funding for as long as possible—albeit that sales of stock totalling more than £6,000m since mid-September will already have covered its specific funding requirement for the 1976-77 financial year.

The major speculation now is whether this new long-dated "tap" stock will be followed by the issue of a new short-dated stock next week. The last issue of short-dated stock, Exchequer 123 per cent, 1981, was totally sold out on Thursday, when the £600m issue attracted applications of more than £1,000m.

Dealings in the new stock started yesterday and it immediately went to a substantial premium, closing at its best level of the day, £1 9/16 above the issue price at £97 13/16.

Other shorts were firm, but long-dated stocks slipped back after announcement of the new 1993 issue to close with falls of up to £1.

Meanwhile, conditions remained tight in the money market, with overnight rates moving as high as 18 per cent and the Bank of England again providing exceptionally heavy assistance over the weekend.

This week's £300m offering of Treasury Bills attracted applications totalling £2,311m.



Mr Brian Salmon (left) chairman of J. Lyons & Co., at yesterday's signing of the hotels deal, with Sir Charles Forte, chief executive of Trust Houses Forte.

Trust Houses adds the Westbury to its hotels

By Patricia Tisdall

Trust Houses Forte announced yesterday that it is buying four hotels for more than £3m from the New York-based Knott Hotels Corporation. The hotels are the Westbury in New York and London, the International at Kennedy Airport and the Pickwick Arms in London. Collectively, the four have a total of 1,540 bedrooms.

The company has also now completed the takeover of 35 of J. Lyons hotels in Britain and Ireland, and effective from the end of this month, the two companies will be merged.

Completed on January 1, the deal was delayed for what were said to be "technical reasons" and full details on how THF will finance this £27m deal are still awaited.

These "technicalities" are believed to have included provision for 400 of J. Lyons administrative staff employed

by Strand, the J. Lyons hotel subsidiary, which is now left with only one hotel, The Tower, in England, and three hotels abroad.

The staff have now been told that THF has agreed to offer over 200 people virtually identical jobs to those they hold with Strand. Some of the staff will be offered different jobs but with equal or better pay and conditions. The remainder will be offered short-term employment for up to four months.

The acquisition of the Strand hotels greatly increases THF's representation in central London where previously, although larger overall, it had lagged behind rival groups such as Grand Metropolitan. Altogether, Strand has 233 hotels and 23,300 bedrooms in Britain, of which 14, containing 6,600 bedrooms, are in central London.

Protection deemed necessary for the survival of many industries NEDO chief urges curb on imports

By Tim Jones

Labour Staff

Sir Ronald McIntosh, director general of the National Economic Development Office, said yesterday that he would favour certain import restrictions in order to protect some home industries.

He mentioned electronics as an example of an industry that could disappear unless it was protected. "I would be very happy to see it buttressed by import restrictions."

Sir Ronald, who was addressing a conference on industrial strategy called by the General and Municipal Workers' Union, believed it would "need a 10-year pull to get to grips with the basic problems" towards restoring Britain's industrial competitiveness.

"It needs joint action and a stable policy background with less chopping and changing than we have had over past years," he said. Changes in government should not be allowed to interfere with this objective.

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, said the

Government's industrial strategy would be a long haul. Britain was "clearly past the stage" where it could hope to rely on macro-economic policies to get the economy right.

He outlined the decline in Britain's economic and social performance, which, he said, was worse in the United Kingdom than in other industrialized countries.

"The fact that the United Kingdom economy has performed relatively poorly over a long period is not in dispute," he said. "The performance of our manufacturing industry has been at the heart of these difficulties."

The recent pressures on the pound, the corrective measures the Chancellor had taken, the refusal of the world economy to recover quickly had all served to underline the importance of a flexible approach which could be adapted to changing circumstances.

"We have avoided the belief that industrial strategy was something that could be worked out at top level and

handed down to those whose actions determine what happens," he said.

"And we have abandoned the mirage that growth could be created by a consumer-led boom."

There was a credibility gap concerning the role and influence of the sector working parties (SWPs) which were established to provide a dialogue between management, unions and government in 41 important manufacturing areas.

There were, Mr Varley said, many aspects of an industry's situation which could be usefully discussed and investigated at sectoral level among the three parties with a view to reaching a greater degree of consensus on what needed to be done to overcome obstacles and grasp opportunities.

"Those who do not sit on SWPs should be ready to respond to consultations and above all to do what they can to see that recommendations and objectives agreed at sector level are translated into action in individual companies."

"There is a credibility gap

here which we have to overcome to demonstrate that the strategy is more than talk but can really change things. There is disappointment that the work is not linked more closely to planning agreements."

Both sides of industry should recognize their common interest in raising industrial efficiency, output and sales.

Mr David Bassett, general secretary of the GMWU, said: "I am rather perturbed that so many of the sector working parties, at the end of their first stage, came up with recommendations, which, in effect, amounted solely to a lobby to alter the price code."

"What the Government recognize a few specific instances in which the price code might have to be relaxed, any blanket relaxation of the kind the SWPs were advocating is contrary to TUC and GMWU policy."

If it could turn SWPs from talking shops into provokers of real action, whether at company, government or plant level, then the union would have made a real achievement.

No progress on Meriden aid request

By Derek Harris

A further exploratory meeting on the proposed rescue for the Meriden motor cycle cooperative, called by Mr Lever, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Prime Minister's economic adviser, ended last night with few signs of progress.

Mr Alan Williams, Minister of State for Industry, and his departmental advisers still appear to feel that the Government cannot put up a further £500,000 to enable the cooperative to buy trading and marketing assets from NVT Motorcycles.

The department apparently regards as a major additional contribution its offer to subordinate the £42m government loan to the rescue of the company.

It has refused to advance a total of £1m as requested by the cooperative. The extra £500,000 is needed for development spending; but given the Government's loan subordination there are hopes this could be raised in the private sector or from other interested concerns such as Steyr-Daimler-Puch, the Austrian automotive group.

Mr Dell sees growth in Iran barter deals

By Maurice Corina

Industrial Editor

A tired but cautious Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, yesterday returned from discussions in Iran and confirmed that civil exporters and contractors might have to do more business on oil barter deals.

Admitting that the extent of Iran's interest in promoting oil-for-goods deals is not clear, Mr Dell said he had obtained the impression that certain big projects were likely to involve barter.

He said there was no reason why bartering oil to win business in Iran was a disadvantage; Britain was well equipped to undertake such business.

However, the British Government would want to consider various questions relating to the extension of barter trading to civil exports from the area of military business.

"If it is on a commercial basis, I would not see any objection," Mr Dell added that he had explained that any bartering must be on a realistic commercial basis, whatever it meant for the price of oil and goods sought.

Mr Dell, speaking shortly after flying back from a series of talks including the fifth session of the Anglo-Iran Joint Ministerial Economic Commission and an audience with the Shah—claimed that Iran was fairly confident of continuing, with a rate of growth in double figures.

His impression, however, was that the Iranians wanted a steady, more manageable rate. There would be some change in priorities, and the emphasis would be on infrastructure, leaving industrial development (excluding oil, gas, and steel) to its private sector. A doubling of Britain's exports, now £500m a year, was not impossible over the next five years.

Mr Dell emphasized that a great deal of business would be

FNFC calls on Bank after £31.3m loss

By Christopher Wilkins

First National Finance Corporation, the secondary bank built up by Mr Pat Matthews, who resigned last year, has suffered yet another heavy loss. From a net deficit of £17m at the half-year stage, the ailing company has now reported a full year loss to the end of October of £31.3m.

To avoid the virtual elimination of its remaining capital, FNFC has also had to go back to the support group of the Bank of England and the clearing banks for additional help.

The support group has agreed to treat £12m of interest owing on its home loans as interest on deferred loans. The effect of this technical change is important since without it FNFC's residual capital would have been reduced to only £14m—a tiny base to support an overall balance sheet total of £285m.

As it is, the company's published capital is £134m, down from £251m the year before. But there remains a deficit on shareholders' funds of £72.3m compared to one of £41m the year before and FNFC is now £24.3m in arrears with interest payments.

The loss is the third running to be declared by FNFC. It follows a net deficit in 1974-75 of £79.5m and the year before that one of £9.5m. Moreover, the company forecasts further difficulties in the present year.

Its problems were exacerbated by the sharp rise in interest rates, and it has already provided £1.5m to take account of the further rise since its year-end. The company notes that the business outlook remains "obscure".

Adverse trading factors have included the difficulty of selling securities at the right time and price, chiefly because of continued problems in the property market, and the decline of the pound.

Japan expected to defer new emission controls on European cars until 1981

By Peter Hazelhurst

Tokyo, Jan 14

After two days of hard bargaining with Japanese government officials, representatives on the European Economic Community declared tonight they were hopeful that Japan would postpone until 1981 the introduction of its new 1978 emission control laws on imported European cars.

Herr Horst Krenzler, leader of the EEC delegation, said he expected that the Japanese officials would report to ministers next week the cabinet would take a decision before the end of the month. Herr Krenzler, who is head of the European Community's Far East Division, added: "He was aware Japanese officials could not come to a decision, but from the technical talks today and yesterday we were confident that their quest for a leeway of three years would receive considerable consideration when cabinet meets."

In April next year Japan will reduce the strictest emission control laws in the world,

which will almost bar European car producers from participating in the Japanese market.

At present the regulations limit exhaust emissions to 0.6 grams of nitrogen oxide per kilometre for light cars. On April 1 next year the figure will be reduced to 0.25 grams for new cars and existing models will have to conform to the strictest standards by April 1979.

The European Community— which exported only 26,500 cars to Japan last year in contrast to the 500,000 Japanese cars absorbed by Europe in 1976—has protested that the new emission standards amount to a new non-tariff barrier.

After meeting Japanese officials, led by Mr Michio Hashimoto, a senior director of Japan's environment agency, during the past two days, Herr Krenzler said he was extremely hopeful that existing European models would be given a leeway of four years, and new European cars would only have to conform to the standards three years after the regulations come into force.

"Personally, I think we will

be given a unique three-year period for both existing and new models," he declared.

Japanese government officials also informed the EEC delegation that the testing of car exports to Japan could be carried out in Europe. Herr Krenzler said: "We asked the Japanese last year if they were prepared to accept European cars in Europe, because the former practice of inspecting cars in Japan was considered to be a non-tariff barrier."

"They agreed to send a mission of inspectors to examine testing facilities in Europe in October last year. But we were not provided with the results."

"During the last two days we were gratified to learn that the results were positive, and all tests of European car exports to Japan will be carried out in Europe from April this year."

Quantifiable tests will be carried out by European inspectors and non-quantifiable tests will be carried out by Japanese inspectors, who will travel to Europe.

"This is a very positive step. We were also informed that the programme to provide Europe with Japanese inspectors had already been included in the draft budget."

Leyland storing cars in delivery strike deadlock

By R. W. Shakespeare

British Leyland faces problems at two of its largest Midland car plants after the weekend because of a continuing strike by car delivery drivers. Leyland is storing cars within the plants, but space is limited and production may have to be cut soon.

No completed vehicles are being moved out of the Rover and Triumph assembly plants at Solihull and Coventry because of protest action by drivers employed by a contractor, James Car Deliveries. The delivery company handles shipments of about 85 per cent of vehicles made at the two plants.

The trouble arises from Leyland's acceptance of pressure from its dealers and franchise holders to allow other delivery companies access to the Midland plants.

In brief

Lisbon stock exchange to reopen

From Richard Wigg

Lisbon, Jan 14

Lisbon stock exchange, closed down after the 1974 revolution, is to be reopened for all kinds of transactions on February 28, the Socialist government announced last night.

The step generally received a welcome from Portuguese business circles. It also raised hopes among those holding shares in the nationalized sector, who until now have been unable to sell.

Dr Mario Soares, the Prime Minister, gave a pledge when he took office last July the government would work to re-activate the stock exchange, considered by leftwingers after the revolution as a symbol of the "bad capitalism" of the Caetano era.

In political terms it is seen as a sign of restoring a competitive market economy in Portugal.

Canberra loans ban

Australia is to restrict overseas borrowing by Australian companies from January 17. Overseas loans of less than two years are banned, and companies borrowing for more than two years for most purposes will have to lodge a deposit with the Reserve Bank, equal to about 25 per cent of the loan.

France to hold petrol prices down for month

The French government has refused to allow the price of petroleum products to be increased before mid-February,

sources at the Industry Ministry said yesterday, despite the rise in oil prices agreed recently by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The government is waiting until oil loaded in Opec countries is brought by Australian tankers before it fixes the size of the rise. The difference in the crude price rise by some Opec members also made fixing a level difficult.

Coffee plea rejected

President Alfonso Lopez, of Colombia, who called for a special meeting of coffee-producing countries to agree to a price freeze, has been turned down by Brazil, apparently under international pressure, informed sources said in Bogotá yesterday.

British Rail in tough talks on oil freight prices

By Michael Bally

Tough negotiations are taking place between British Rail and the oil industry over renewal of oil freight contracts entered into in the Beeching era 10 years ago at what BR privately admits were over-generous prices.

The railways are looking for sharply improved profitability rather than a big expansion in carryings, now about 17 million tonnes a year.

One 10-year contract has already been signed, and yesterday Phillips Petroleum signed on similar lines.

Negotiations are under way or about to start with several other of BR's customers which include Shell, BP, Esso, Amoco, Conoco, Gulf, and Elf.

In terms of value oil and petroleum are one of BR's smaller freight businesses, worth around £19m last year.

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1,500 more jobs at Linwood

Chrysler is going ahead with plans to recruit 1,500 more workers at its Linwood plant in Scotland, despite union opposition.

In letters to the 6,500 labour force at Linwood, the company said double shift working would start on April 18. However, 3,000 Transport and General Workers' Union men at the plant have refused to agree to double shift working unless they are guaranteed work for two years and improved lay-off payments.

The company said in the letter it was vital that production on their new small car, code-named 424, should start at Linwood this year.

How the markets moved

Rises			Falls		
APV	5p to 27 1/2p		Berry Wiggins	3p to 3 1/2p	
Decca	5p to 26 1/2p		Cap & Counties	2 1/2p to 10p	
Dunlop	5p to 5 1/2p		Dimplex	4p to 7p	
East Dags	4p to 20p		ERF	3p to 4 1/2p	
Copeng Couis	10p to 25 1/2p		Harmony	5p to 26 1/2p	
Hickson Welch	10p to 33 1/2p		Kloof	1p to 36 1/2p	
Lee Cooper	6p to 56p		Lithuan	10p to 23 1/2p	
Nat of Aust			Mount Lyall		
5p to 27 1/2p			5p to 25p		
Pauls & Whites	5p to 99p		Messina Trans	5p to 150p	
Rand Select	15p to 41 1/2p		Prov Life 'A'	5p to 100p	
Saint Finn	5p to 85p		RHP	5p to 51p	
Sumner, F.	1p to 8p		Sandeman, C.	2p to 35p	
Travis & Arnold	11p to 11 1/2p		Sumner, O. C.	1p to 25p	
Vantona	8p to 86p		Town & City	1p to 5p	
THE POUND			On other pages		
Bank	1.52	Bank	21	Prospectuses:	
buys	1.57	sell	19	BASF	22
Australia \$	25.50	25.50	20	Great Central Railway	21
Austria S	65.50	62.50			
Belgium Fr	1.77	1.72			
Canada \$	10.45	10.05			
Denmark Kr	6.70	6.45			
Finland Mkk	6.70	6.45			
France Fr	4.26	4.04			
Germany Dm	73.50	69.50			
Greece Dr	8.35	7.90			
Hongkong \$	1610.00	1520.00			
Italy L	525.00	500.00			
Japan Yn	4.46	4.24			
Netherlands Gld	9.34	8.98			
Norway Kr	59.00	55.00			
Portugal Esc	2.08	1.96			
Spain Ptas	121.00	113.00			
Sweden Kr	7.52	7.17			
Switzerland Fr	4.43	4.21			
US \$	1.75	1.70			
Yugoslavia Dnr	34.25	32.00			

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EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

The case for unit-linked bonds

Slow but sure rise in house prices

The apparently insatiable demand for home ownership continues despite penal interest rates and personal economic uncertainty. Last week's building society lending by building societies was at the unprecedentedly high level of £500m a week for most of the year. The mere fact that only a few borrowers in December reflected an inadequate wage funds, not a significant easing of demand.

In classic arguments in favour of owner-occupation as an investment have perhaps come a little battered during recent periods of high interest rates and little increase in house prices, but most people seem to accept the present position as a short-term by-product of the country's economic ills, rather than as a permanent shift in attitudes to the ownership of housing.

Historically, one borrowed to buy a house because the beneficial tax relief, the ring effect and the appreciation of an asset which outstripped the cost of the loan.

The introduction of a £25,000 ceiling for interest relief put a limit on the first consideration, but as the average size of a loan is still at £8,000 it is not an inhibiting factor for many people. Interest relief is one day directed to basic rate tax, as is sometimes threatened, the picture might be different.

The gearing argument is a perennial one and frequently clouded. There are people who think that it would be wise to put aside the mortgage repayments into a form of regular savings. But if it were not for the fact that the first mortgage down-payment secures the value of an asset worth thousands, it takes many years to make savings of the equivalent volume.

In other words, the householder—with only a minor stake in its equity—gets the appreciation on the entire £8,000 loan from the day he completes his purchase. It would take many years for his repayment of, say, £60 a month, to grow into a saved nest-egg of £8,000—which will have very much depreciated in value by then.

The arguments for borrowing money to invest at a rate higher than the interest one is paying are better understood. Put simply, if the growth in one's investment, one's house in this case, is greater than the percentage interest rate one is paying—one is in pocket.

Historically, house-buyers have never needed to question this concept: house prices have shown large gains in excess of the net mortgage interest rate. Even last year, they kept their end up: at the end of 1976 buyers were paying a net 8 per cent (the net equivalent of the 12.25 per cent mortgage rate) while house prices also rose by 8 per cent.

The figure of 8 per cent comes from the Nationwide Building Society, which during the week released its latest bulletin on house prices in 1976. The figures are based on the loans made by the society—the third largest in the country—during the course of the year.

They are a good indicator, but it must be borne in mind that they do not mirror the housing market in its entirety; and over the years it has become apparent that Nationwide's figures, if anything, tend to veer on the side of optimism.

As might be expected, new house prices rose more rapidly than those of any other type of property. House-builders are under pressure and even now are finding it difficult to price their houses at a level both compatible with profits and what the public considers the market rate for new houses.

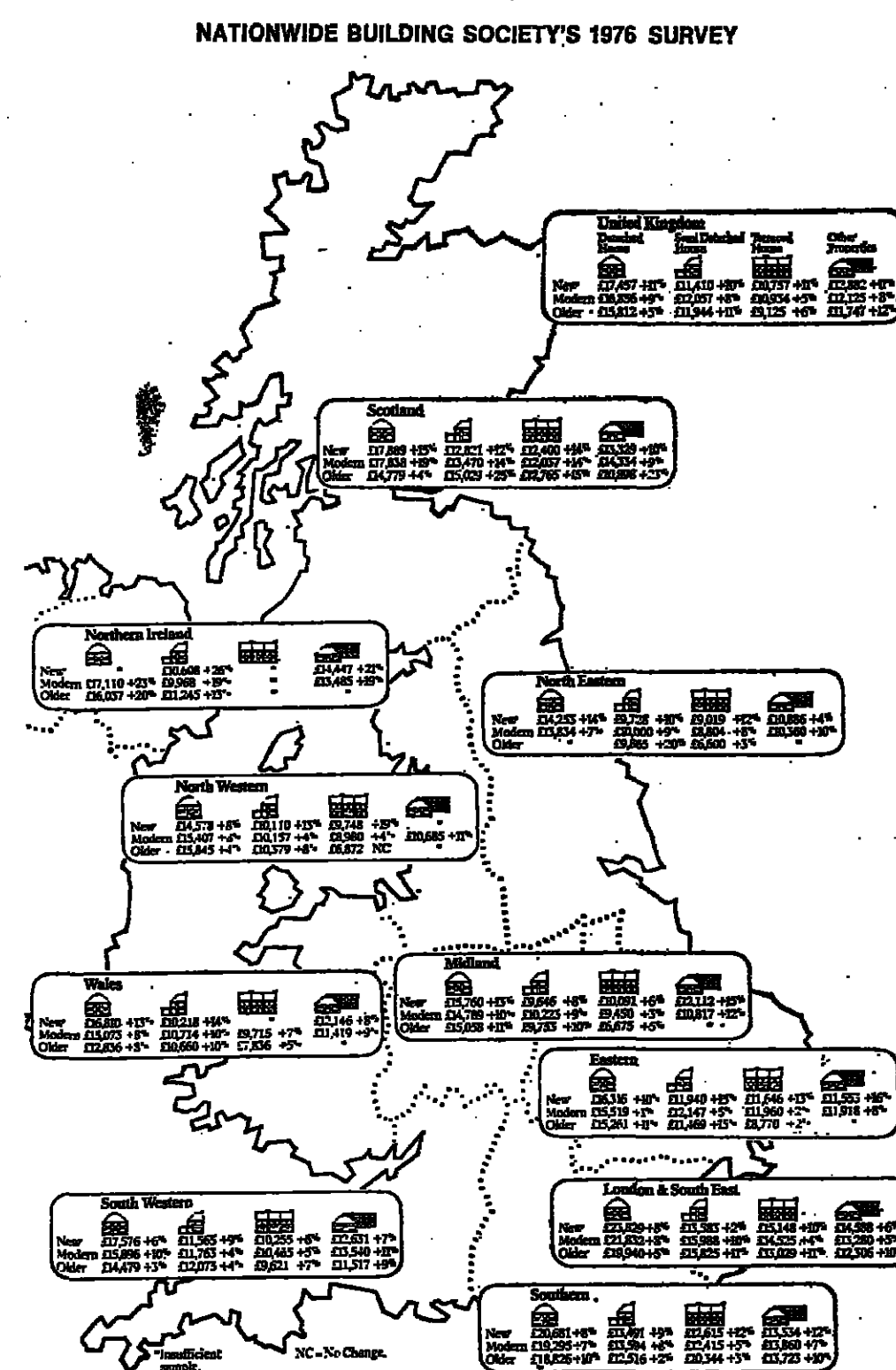
If the house price market were not dominated by second-hand houses, which make up the bulk of it, the new house prices would be higher. During the year new houses rose in price by 10 per cent—although with the exception of Scotland increases were beginning to flatten off by the fourth quarter of the year.

Older second-hand homes had rather more support. The average increase for this range was 8 per cent and regional variations are more marked in recent months.

In the northern regions and Wales there was apparently a spurt in the price of these older properties, which typically rose by about 4 per cent in the last quarter in these areas.

Perhaps the most heartening news for prospective purchasers is that they can now more easily afford to buy a house than they could have three years ago. Earnings have risen by more than 70 per cent in that period, compared with a rise of 27 per cent in house prices.

At all depends, of course, upon the availability of mortgage finance.



Percentage figures show changes in indices over the year ended December 31, 1976.

The category which showed the slowest growth during 1976 was modern second-hand properties, up by 7 per cent. Most of this growth came in the first nine months of the year, with very small price improvements—about 1 per cent—in most parts of the country—recorded in the last quarter.

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Convertible policy • Gains tax benefit

The range of new insurance products coming on to the market never ceases to amaze. Many new ideas, of course, are basically variations on an old theme.

Scottish Provident has just announced a new idea for its Reinforced Endowment Assurance—its low-cost endowment assurance plan. These are schemes whereby a mortgage is repaid off at the end of the term after the addition of bonuses at a conservative rate.

The old plan relied upon decreasing term assurance to top up the necessary life cover in the early years of the mortgage, but the new plan, to be known as Progressive Endowment Plan, uses level convertible term assurance.

The idea is that borrowers, who are usually financially strained at the outset of their mortgage commitment, gradually become better off and might wish to take out further with-profits assurance. In these circumstances convertible term (based on one's current health situation) can be a useful starter.

The Inland Revenue is rarely seen in a benevolent mood these days, but there are the odd flashes of generosity. Take the case of the person who has been unable to sell his old house but has moved into the new one.

Under the old rules if he had not sold his old house within 12 months of moving into the new one he would have been liable to capital gains tax (time apportioned, of course) on the sale of the first house. The Revenue, keeping a sharp eye on house prices and, more important perhaps, on the trend of house sales, announced in February, 1975, when the market was very sticky—that a modest extension of that statutory 12-month period would be allowed.

Nearly two years later, it has actually gone around to stipulate how long that extension will be. It is for another 12 months.

So owners who are experiencing difficulty selling houses at the top end of the market, which are still moving very slowly, now have a two-year grace period before falling into the gains tax net.

Credit Going still tough for borrowers

Interest rates are now unquestionably on the decline, which should be good news for borrowers. Ironically, however, the climate for borrowing by private individuals has rarely been tougher.

The first point is that, for various technical reasons, the three successive drops in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate from 14 per cent to 14 per cent over the past month or so have not been accompanied by any reduction in bank lending rates to their customers.

The reason for this is that banks are less concerned about the level of MLR than the cost of money to themselves when they have to raise it in the interbank markets. Interbank rates have not been falling in line with MLR, largely because the huge sales of gilt-edged securities have created a shortage of funds in the wholesale money markets.

However, the Bank of England has now acted to ease the acute shortage by returning to the banks £740m which it held in the form of special deposits. If its action has the desired effect, there could be some scope for an easing of interbank rates, although other circumstances—such as the traditional January tax gathering season—could still operate to keep rates up.

Unless there is a relative change in interbank rates, it could require up to another 1 percentage point drop in MLR before the banks would feel under pressure to cut their own base rates from 14 to 13½ per cent.

The real problem for borrowers, though, is not just to do with interest rates. It is also to do with availability of finance.

The key factor limiting availability has been the introduction of the Bank of England's so-called "corset" scheme. This is essentially a device to control the growth in money supply by restricting the ability of banks to take in new deposits upon which they have to pay interest.

In practice the banks are already hard up against their limits—indeed, slightly over by the end of the first week in December—and are therefore anxious to discourage the inflow of new interest-bearing deposits. By the same token they cannot afford to increase their lending on any significant scale.

What extra lending the banks can do is being reserved for priority borrowers as defined by the Bank of England, which includes manufacturing industries, exporters and those engaged in import substitution.

It was clear from the point when the "corset" was introduced that personal borrowers were going to find it more difficult to get most of the clearers this has now become formalised in the shape of letters of guidance from head offices through to managers at the branch level.

Of the big four clearers, only Lloyds has felt it unnecessary to back up previous guidelines with a new letter.

While there are some variations of emphasis the theme of the new letters is that bank managers should curtail personal lending tightly. Bridging finance for house purchases will be much more difficult to obtain.

When overdraft facilities fall due for renewal, banks will take the opportunity to cut out any unused overdrafts and, although there is no suggestion yet that overdrafts will be actually called in, it is clear that new overdrafts will be very hard to obtain. Midland, for example, has made it clear that its new personal lending will be concentrated very much on term loans with a firm schedule of repayments.

Barclays' personal lending is being held at present levels, and new loans will only be made to the extent that old ones are repaid.

All of this means that private individuals interested in borrowing to pay, say, for a new car, are much more likely than in the past to be channelled into the hire purchase companies which, of course, charge higher interest rates than the banks. United Dominions Trust, for example, is at present charging a flat rate of 15 per cent, which is equal to a true rate of 30 per cent on a two-year loan.

The hire purchase companies, the biggest of which—with the exception of UDT—are in any case subsidiaries of clearing banks, fall within the confines of the corset scheme and thus also face limits on their capacity to enlarge the overall size of their balance sheets. But the companies, by their nature, enjoy a very different flow of funds. Loans are restricted to no more than two-year maturity with fixed repayments during their life and as a result there is a constant inflow of lendable funds.

The time may come when even the hire purchase companies will feel the squeeze, but for the moment they are still in a position to lend—at a price.

Christopher Wilkins

Investor's week

Stock market ponders its direction

Through the release of special deposits gave shares a lift on Thursday, the market as a whole did little to live the fundamental question of the stock market's course.

The market had already digested the measures for protecting the sterling balance, but the fact that the first mortgage down-payment secures the value of an asset worth thousands, it takes many years to make savings of the equivalent volume.

In other words, the householder—with only a minor stake in its equity—gets the appreciation on the entire £8,000 loan from the day he completes his purchase. It would take many years for his repayment of, say, £60 a month, to grow into a saved nest-egg of £8,000—which will have very much depreciated in value by then.

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MAIN RISES AND FALLS OF THE WEEK				
Low	Company	Rises	Movement	Comment
114	AP Cement	184p	+ 11p	Export orders
47	Golden Hope	89p	+ 6p	Merger plans
83	LEP Group	125p	+ 12p	Figures
86	Travis & Arnold	112p	+ 28p	Speculative interest
200	Union Discount	333p	+ 13p	Gilt market
277	BAT Industries	285p	- 15p	"Sell" recommendation
569	BP	792p	- 32p	Wall St and profit-taking
170	De La Rue	237p	- 9p	Profit-taking after figures
175	EMI	213p	- 18p	Market trend
58	Oil Exploration	93p	- 8p	"Dry" well

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Investors have shared in this success story. Over the twenty years to 31st December 1976, share values, as shown by the Tokyo Dow Jones Index, have risen by 808%.

Japan continues to offer an outstanding investment opportunity—especially today. New expansion policies were introduced in early 1975 and production is rising, though it is still below the 1973 peak. Industrial investment continues at a high level and this is backed by a strong currency and substantially increased reserves.

Hong Kong exports up 46% in 10 months

Hong Kong has a capitalist, free-trade economy with a phenomenal rate of growth in recent years. The Gross Domestic Product is estimated to have grown in 1976 at least 16% in real terms. Exports rose in the first ten months of 1976 by 46%. Yet this growth is accompanied by a level of inflation of under 4%. The performance of the economy is reflected in the strength of the Hong Kong dollar—one of the world's most stable currencies—which has gained 15% over the U.S. dollar during the last ten years.

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